

THE LITERARY GAZETTE

AND
Journal of the Belles Lettres, Science, and Art.

No. 1886.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1853.

Price Fourpence.
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ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.—The DIRECTORS of the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA beg most respectfully to inform the Nobility, Gentry, Subscribers, and the Public, that the Season will commence on TUESDAY, March 29th.

Full Particulars will be duly announced.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALL MALL.—The GALLERY for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the WORKS of BRITISH ARTISTS is OPEN Daily from Ten till Five. Admission 1s. GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION OF FINE ARTS, Portland Gallery, 316, Regent Street, opposite the Royal Polytechnic Institution. This Exhibition of Modern Pictures is now OPEN daily from Nine till dusk. Admission, One Shilling; Catalogue, Sixpence.

BELL SMITH, Secretary.

ART UNION OF LONDON.—(By Royal Charter). The Subscription Lists will close 31st inst. Specimens of the Two Prints to be given to every Subscriber may be seen at the Office, viz., "THE SURRENDER OF CALAIS," a work of national and historical interest, by H. Robinson, after H. C. Selous; and "CHRIST LED TO CRUCIFIXION," in addition to the above Two Prints each. Prizeholder will be entitled to select for himself a Work of Art from one of the Public Exhibitions.

GEORGE GODWIN, J. Honorary Secretary.
LEWIS POCOCK, J. Secretaries.

44, West Strand, 4th March, 1853.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF CHEMISTRY, London. The Practical Course of Instruction in this Institution is under the direction of Dr. A. W. HOFMANN and Assistants.

The Session will commence on Monday, the 14th of March, and end on Saturday the 30th of July, 1853.

The Fee for Students working every day during the Session is £ 2. 10s. 0d.
Four days in the week 12 0 0
Three days in the week 10 0 0
Two days in the week 8 0 0
One day in the week 5 0 0
Hours of Attendance from Nine to Five. Further particulars may be obtained on application at the College in Oxford Street.

ARCHITECTURAL PUBLICATION SOCIETY. A Title Page and List of Contents is prepared for binding the works issued during the four years, 1848-52. A few sets can still be obtained on payment of the Subscriptions, (One Guinea per annum.) The DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE is commenced for the current year.

WYATT PAPWORTH, Hon. Sec. 14 Great Marlborough Street, March 9, 1853.

UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION, Whitehall Yard.—A Lecture on ERICSSON'S CALORIC ENGINE, by Mr. CRISPE, will be delivered in the Theatre of the Institution, on Friday, the 18th March, at Three o'clock.

By order of the Council. L. H. J. TONNA, Secretary. P.S.—The Lectures for the Season will be duly announced. March 11th, 1853.

THE MUSEUM OF ORNAMENTAL MANUFACTURES, including Specimens from the Royal and other Collections, is OPEN daily, except Saturdays, from 10 till 4. On Mondays and Tuesdays, free; on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 6d. each person. Catalogues, 3d. each. Marlborough House, Pall Mall.

MARYLEBONE LITERARY and SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION, 17, Edward Street, Portman Square. The FIRST ORATION upon the LIFE, CHARACTER, and GENIUS of SHAKESPEARE will be pronounced at the above Institution by the Author, THE CHEVALIER COUNT JONES, Author of "The Original History of Ancient America," &c., on WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 16th; and also, upon the same evening, after Oration, ILLUSTRATIVE READINGS from SHAKESPEARE'S "OTHELLO." To commence at 8 o'clock precisely, an interval of 10 minutes between the Oration and Reading, Reserved Seats, 3s.; Tickets, 2s. The usual privilege to Members.

N.B. Only a limited number of Tickets will be issued.

NOTICE.—TO INVENTORS, ARTISTS, AND OTHERS.

THE ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION is now CLOSED until EASTER MONDAY, for the purpose of erecting spacious NEW ROOMS for a PHOTOGRAPHIC SCHOOL, &c. &c.

MODELS of MACHINERY, which will be described to the Visitors, WORKS of ART, &c. will be received for Exhibition, free of expense to the Depositors, until the 21st of March.

NIMROUD OBELISK.—A Model of this interesting Obelisk has been made by Mr. TENNANT, No. 149, Strand, London, having the Cuneiform writing, and five rows of figures on each side, carefully copied from that sent by Dr. Layard to the British Museum. The Model is in Black Marble, like the original, and stands 20 inches high. Mr. Tennant has also Models of several Egyptian Obelisks.

NOTICE.—FIVE HUNDRED COPIES of Layard's New Work on Babylon and Nineveh, and an ample supply of the recent work of merit or general interest, are in circulation at MUDIE'S SELECT LIBRARY, 510, New Oxford Street. Single Subscription, One Guinea per annum: First-Class County Subscription, Two Guineas and upwards, according to the number of volumes required.

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REVIEWS.

Discoveries in the Ruins of Nineveh and Babylon; with Travels in Armenia, Kurdistan, and the Desert: being the result of a Second Expedition undertaken for the Trustees of the British Museum. By Auguste H. Layard, M.P. Murray.

It cannot be said of the discoveries in Assyria that they have met with neglect or been prosecuted with little vigour, from the want of writers able and willing to do full justice to their historical or artistic value; for, not even the disinterment of Pompeii, revealing, as it did, the actual state of a town of the Augustan age, nor that of the Sepulchres of Etruria, with their exquisite remains of the pictorial genius of the Greeks, has found so complete, and, on the whole, so satisfactory an elucidation. Already a new literature has sprung up, devoted to their illustration; architectural comparisons have been drawn between these and other Eastern ruins; and restorations, more or less fanciful, of the presumed ancient appearance of the Assyrian palaces have been put forth. The slow but sure research of European philology is gradually unlocking the records of the inscriptions, and the names of Sardanapalus and Sennacherib are becoming familiar as household words; while the advocate of "undesigned coincidences" may rejoice in the happy harmony between his scriptural anticipations and the results of learned investigation.

Each country, in its turn, has contributed something to the general stock of information on these subjects. In England, as of right, the magician who first brought these wonders to the light of day, has told us, in two graceful volumes, of his earlier Discoveries up to the summer of 1847, casting many a prophetic glance forward to other and yet more important results, now at length realized. In his wake have followed a host of minor writers, each, however, in that he has written from a new point of view, adding something of use or interest:—Mr. Bonomi, for the 'Illustrated London News,' giving to the world a cheap, though in some respects inaccurate, version of the chief events of the discoveries;—the Christian Knowledge Society, in its 'Assyria,' sending forth a valuable manual for the biblical history of that country, with a sober view of the prophetical statements which refer to it;—Mr. Blackburn contributing some popular lectures on 'The Rise and Fall of Jonah's City of Three Days' Journey';—and, last and least, Mr. Fletcher, who has published his rambles in the East, under the name of 'Nineveh,' and has thus led many an unwary student to suppose that he might find something in his work he would not meet with elsewhere. To Rawlinson and to Hincks the interpretation of the Cuneiform texts has been wisely conceded, as to men whose extensive Oriental knowledge fitted them in a peculiar manner for the difficult task they have undertaken.

In France, the magnificent tomes of M. Botta's 'Khorsabad discoveries,' published at the cost of the government, are noble memorials of the spirit in which that country rewards and supports her scientific travellers; while one of her ablest archeologists, De Sauley, puts forth his strength, and grapples manfully with the chronology of the ancient empire. In Germany, the octogenarian Grotfend, the Coryphaeus of Cuneiform

discovery, exhibits in more than one late publication that advanced years have not impaired the genius which, more than half a century since, first opened the way for the completer interpretations of modern days. Even Italy, once a name so glorious in the fields of literature, has not forgotten the prestige which once attached to her, and, in the person of M. Luzzato, has attempted the deciphering of some of the inscriptions, though we cannot, in candour, admit that success has as yet crowned the labours of her champion in this noble race. And now again, once more, the discoverer himself comes before us, to tell, in his own clear and nervous style, the stirring adventures of his two last years in Assyria, becoming himself the *Vates sacer*, whose descriptions shall preserve from rapid and hopeless decay many an interesting fragment, which has been raised from its Assyrian tomb but to moulder away under the changefulness of an English climate. He appears before us, too, with a work which will nobly, we think, sustain the laurels he won in his earlier publication, and which is even the more pleasing from the felicity of its illustrations and the evident ease with which it is written. Seldom has it been our lot to take up a volume wherein history, research, and anecdote are more happily and, we may add, more judiciously, interwoven.

Dr. Layard (and we advisedly give him a title which records the only honourable reward which he had received from his country, until, within this last week, the city of London voted him, encased in gold, its freedom) commenced his second expedition towards the end of August 1849. Leaving Constantinople, he took the steamer to Trebizond, pursuing his journey from that port to Mosul, through the mountainous districts of Armenia, and passing Erzerum, Wan, Akhlat, and the northern districts of the Yezidis. Many things combine to make this line of travel one of peculiar interest; for it passes through a country celebrated for the grandeur of its mountain scenery, and takes nearly the same route which the small but gallant band of Xenophon must have pursued more than twenty centuries ago. Dr. Layard was fortunate in his companions. A report having reached the Yezidis of the Mosul pashalik that their old friend had returned to Constantinople, a deputation from them had been sent to him, to state their grievances, and the oppression to which the people were subject, owing to the enforcement of the Turkish military conscription, and with an undoubting belief that, through his powerful aid, it might obtain access to some of the chief ministers of the Sultan, and get acknowledgment of, or relief for, their wrongs. "After encountering," says Dr. Layard, "many difficulties and dangers, they reached the capital, and found out my abode. I lost no time in presenting them to Sir Stratford Canning, who, ever ready to exert his powerful influence in the cause of humanity, at once brought their wrongs to the notice of the Porte." A firman was procured freeing the Yezidis from the illegal impositions, and forbidding the sale of their children as slaves; and a promise was given that they should in future be released from such military service as was incompatible with the strict observance of their religious duties. Cawal Yusuf (so was the leader of the mission called) accompanied Dr. Layard on his return to the East, and it may easily be imagined what must have been the welcome which so humane a traveller and so

generous a friend would naturally receive from the poor Yezidis, when it was made known to them that he, to whom they were so much indebted, was travelling with their Cawal. Dr. Layard well describes the entrance of his party into the first large Yezidi village at which they had arrived:—

"It was evening before we descended into the plain country of the district of Kherzan. The Yezidi village of Hamki had been visible for some time from the heights, and we turned towards it. As the sun was fast sinking, the peasants were leaving the threshing-floor, and gathering together their implements of husbandry. They saw the large company of horsemen drawing nigh, and took us for irregular troops,—the terror of an Eastern village. Cawal Yusuf, concealing all but his eyes with the Arab kefah, which he then wore, rode into the midst of them, and demanded in a peremptory voice provisions and quarters for the night. The poor creatures huddled together, unwilling to grant, yet fearing to refuse. The Cawal having enjoyed their alarm for a moment, threw his kerchief from his face, exclaiming, 'O evil ones! will you refuse bread to your priest, and turn him hungry from your door?' There was surely then no unwillingness to receive us. Casting aside their shovels and forks, the men threw themselves upon the Cawal, each struggling to kiss his hand. A boy ran to the village to spread the news, and from it soon issued women, children, and old men, to welcome us. A few words sufficed to explain from whence we came, and what we required. Every one was our servant. Horses were unloaded, tents pitched, lambs brought, before we had time to look around. There was a general rejoicing, and the poor Yezidis seemed scarcely able to satiate themselves with looking on their priest; for a report had gone abroad, and had been industriously encouraged by the Mussulmans, who had heard of the departure of the deputation for Constantinople, that Yusuf and his companions had been put to death by the Sultan, and that not only the petition of the Yezidis had been rejected, but that fresh torments were in store for them. For eight months they had received no news of the Cawal, and this long silence had confirmed their fears; but 'he was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found,' and they made merry with all that the village could afford."

From this spot the advance of the party was accompanied with general rejoicing, and from every village far and near the crowds assembled to greet and escort the travellers on their journey. Horsemen and footmen, the horsemen galloping to and fro, the footmen discharging their firearms, bishops and priests, women and children, thronged around the welcome visitors; and as they passed from village to village, "the whole population would turn to meet us, mostly dressed in pure white and wearing flowers in the turbans; women stood on the roadside with jars of fresh water and bowls of sour milk, whilst others with the children were assembled on the housetops making the *tahlel*." To those, unfortunately too many, adds Dr. Layard with touching truth, "who believe that the Easterns can only be managed by violence and swayed by fear, let this record be a proof, that there are high and generous feelings which may not only be relied and acted on, without interfering with their authority or compromising their dignity, but with every hope of laying the foundation of real attachment and mutual esteem." Again, as the travellers approached Mosul, the same kindly feeling is displayed. The country being in a very disturbed state, and the Yezidis and Bedouins in open feud, they had for greater security kept the upper and hill tracks instead of galloping over the plains. Already the news of their approach had spread before

them to Mosul, and they were surprised one morning by the appearance of a large body of horsemen, whom from the distance they could not determine whether they were friends or foes : —

" Cawal Yusuf," says Dr. Layard, " and myself, being the best mounted, rode towards them to reconnoitre. Then one or two horsemen advanced warily from the opposite party. We neared each other. Yusuf spied the well-known black turban, dashed forward with a shout of joy, and in a moment we were surrounded, and in the embrace of friends. Hussein Bey and Sheikh Nasr, with the Cawals and Yezidi elders, had ridden nearly forty miles through the night to meet and escort me, if needful, to Mosul ! Their delight at seeing us knew no bounds; nor was I less touched by a display of gratitude and good feeling, equally unexpected and sincere."

Arrived at Mosul, Dr. Layard lost no time in proceeding at once to examine the mounds, visiting those of Kouyunjik (which are opposite that town) the very morning after he had arrived, and viewing with his own eyes the results of the excavations carried on after his departure in 1848 by Mr. Ross. Many new and interesting sculptures had been found, but the majority of them had been much defaced by the fire, which had consumed the building they once adorned, while some of the slabs had been purposely destroyed, " every vestige of sculpture having been removed by a sharp instrument." One peculiarity was noticed in the arrangement, distinguishing them from those at Nimroud, the four walls of a chamber being generally occupied by one series of sculptures, representing a consecutive history and uninterrupted by inscriptions; while at Nimroud, on the other hand, the bas-reliefs were generally divided into two bands or friezes by inscriptions, the subject being frequently confined to one tablet or slab, and arranged with some attempt at composition, so as to form a separate picture. Hence, in the remains of Kouyunjik, there was room for much greater detail, and the sculptor appears to have aimed at conveying, by rude representations of trees, valleys, mountains, and rivers, a general idea of the natural features of the country in which the events recorded took place. At Nimroud, with the exception of a shaft forty feet deep, sunk nearly in the centre of the conical mound, and passing through a mass of sun-dried bricks, little else had been done since Dr. Layard's last visit. The operations at Kouyunjik were the first that were recommenced on any large scale, and the immediate result was the discovery of a very interesting succession of sculptures, on which were depicted the whole process of moving the great bulls from the plain on to the mounds, together with the construction of the mounds themselves. Dr. Layard has described with great spirit and clearness the pictures on these slabs, of which all that were capable of being removed have been placed by him subsequently in the British Museum. Upon some of them still remain inscriptions, containing the name of the king who placed them in the Kouyunjik palace. This name Colonel Rawlinson and Dr. Hincks both agree is unquestionably that of Sennacherib, who may therefore be considered as the chief builder if not the founder of this edifice. The identification is confirmed by long inscriptions on the great bulls from this Palace, which have also been, for the most part, satisfactorily translated.

It would be impossible, within the limits of this short notice, to mention a tithe of the

subjects of interest which Dr. Layard has collected in the earlier chapters of this work; but we are inclined to think that no part will more fully repay the attention of the reader than his account of Sennacherib and his remains. Few instances can be adduced of more happy application of modern learning and research, than those which have led to the successful unravelling and interpretation of the records in which the events of the reign of this monarch have been preserved. Nor is the perfect coincidence of the narrative, as deduced from the inscriptions, with the Biblical account less remarkable. There can be no doubt that the campaign against the cities of Palestine recorded on the monuments at Kouyunjik, is the same as that described in Holy Scripture : —

" The events agree with considerable accuracy. We are told in the Book of Kings, that the King of Assyria, in the fourteenth year of Hezekiah, ' came up against all the fenced cities of Judah and took them,' as he declares himself to have done in his annals. And what is most important, and perhaps one of the most remarkable coincidences of historic testimony on record, the amount of the treasure in gold taken from Hezekiah, thirty talents, agrees in two perfectly independent records. Too much stress cannot be laid upon this singular fact, as it tends to prove the general accuracy of the historical details contained in the Assyrian inscriptions."

And if, as in fact we find that Sennacherib did not perpetuate the memory of his miraculous overthrow before the walls of Jerusalem, we need not be surprised; he would naturally gloss over his defeat by describing the tribute he had received from Hezekiah as the general result of his campaign. Dr. Layard concludes this portion of his volume with remarks, in which we feel persuaded that the majority of those who peruse this work will entirely coincide : —

" Little doubt, I trust," says he, " can now exist in the minds of my readers as to the identification of the builder of the Palace of Kouyunjik, with the Sennacherib of Scripture. Had the name stood alone, we might reasonably have questioned the correctness of the reading, especially as the signs or monograms, with which it is written, are admitted to have no phonetic power. But when characters whose alphabetic values have been determined from a perfectly distinct source, such as the Babylonian column of the trilingual inscriptions, furnish us with names in the records attributed to Sennacherib, written almost identically as in the Hebrew version of the Bible, such as Hezekiah, Jerusalem, Judah, Sidon, and others, and all occurring in one and the same paragraph, their reading, moreover, confirmed by synchronisms, and illustrated by sculptured representations of the events, the identification must be admitted to be complete."

But besides the larger monuments and inscriptions, there were discovered also some other remains bearing the like testimony, and, from their peculiar form, of remarkable interest. In one of the chambers in the south-west corner of the Kouyunjik building were found a large number of pieces of fine clay bearing the impressions of seals, without doubt once affixed, like modern official seals, to documents written on leather, parchment, and perhaps linen. The writings themselves have, of course, long since perished, even if they were not destroyed by the fire which swept through the edifice; but in the stamped clay may still be seen the holes for the string, the impression of the fabric on which the documents were written, and the marks of the thumbs which pressed the seal against the clay. Some of them appear to be Phoenician

and some Egyptian, but the majority have devices which are purely Assyrian. Their impressions indicate but little inferiority to the Greek intaglios, and exhibit a very great advance in the arts of civilized life. No Assyrian remains yet discovered equal them in delicacy of workmanship; and they are the more valuable, as the best specimens of Assyrian engraving are known to us only through these fragile impressions. Perhaps the most remarkable is one, in which there are impressions of two royal signets, the one Assyrian and the other Egyptian, indicating in all probability that the document to which it had been attached was a treaty of some kind between the two countries. The name of the Egyptian king, as deciphered by Mr. Birch, is Sabako, a king the twenty-fifth dynasty, who was reigning in Egypt at the end of the seventh century B.C., exactly at the time when Sennacherib came to the throne. He is generally considered to be the So of 2 Kings, xvii. 4.

Parallel with and coincident in time with the excavations at Kouyunjik, Dr. Layard was able to carry on similar works in the seat of his first discoveries, the Great Mound of Nimroud. Nor was he less successful there than at Kouyunjik, in bringing to light a succession of monuments of the highest interest. His first operations were directed to the removal of the gigantic human-headed lions, which he had discovered in 1846, and which now form the chief ornament of the Assyrian collection in the British Museum. During Dr. Layard's absence in England these sculptures had been carefully covered over, and he had now the satisfaction to find them perfectly uninjured. Dr. Layard gives the following animated account of the last part of this removal : —

" It was necessary to humour and excite the Arabs to induce them to persevere in the arduous work of dragging the cart through the deep soft soil into which it continually sank. At one time, after many vain efforts to move the buried wheels, it was unanimously declared that Mr. Cooper, the artist, brought ill luck, and no one would work until he retired. The cumbersome machine crept onwards for a few more yards, but again all exertions were fruitless. Then the Frank lady would bring good fortune if she sat on the sculpture. The wheels rolled heavily along, but were soon clogged once more in the yielding soil. An evil eye surely lurked among the workmen or the bystanders. Search was quickly made, and one having been detected upon whom this curse had alighted, he was ignominiously driven away with shouts and execrations. This impediment having been removed, the cart drew nearer to the village, but soon again came to a standstill. All the Sheikhs were now summarily degraded from their rank and honours, and a weak ragged boy having been dressed up in tawdry kerchiefs, and invested with a cloak, was pronounced by Hormuzd to be the only fit chief for such puny men. The cart moved forwards, until the ropes gave way, under the new excitement caused by this reflection upon the character of the Arabs. When that had subsided, and the presence of the youthful Sheikh no longer encouraged his subjects, he was as summarily deposed as he had been elected, and a greybeard of ninety was raised to the dignity in his stead. He had his turn; then the most unpopular of the Sheikhs were compelled to lie down on the ground, that the groaning wheels might pass over them, like the car of Jugger-naut over its votaries. With yells, shrieks, and wild antics the cart was drawn within a few inches of the prostrate men. As a last resource I seized a rope myself, and with shouts of defiance between the different tribes, who were divided into separate parties and pulled against each other, and amidst the deafening *tahdil*

of the women, the lion was at length fairly brought to the water's edge."

During their removal some curious fragments of ivory were discovered, and two massive sockets in bronze, on which the hinges of one of the gates of the palace had formerly turned. There were, however, no remains of the door-posts, and it could not be determined whether these rings had been fixed in stone or wood.

But a more curious discovery awaited him. In a chamber in the N.W. palace, which was now opened for the first time, were found two copper cauldrons, placed upon a stand of brick-work and covered by a flat tile: within them were discovered a large collection of small bronze bells, many of which were in the most perfect state of preservation, while beneath them were several bronze dishes, together with studs or buttons in mother of pearl, and rosettes in metal. Dr. Layard conjectures with much probability that most of these objects belonged to horse and chariot furniture. Many other cauldrons and dishes were found in this chamber, some almost destroyed, and all much corroded by the moisture in the soil. The bronze dishes have, many of them, been since most perfectly cleaned by Mr. Doubleday, of the British Museum, to whose sagacity, judgment, and perseverance Dr. Layard very properly pays a just tribute in a note. They have also been carefully drawn by Mr. Prentis, and are now published in the second series of the 'Monuments of Nineveh.' Nothing can exceed the beauty of the workmanship of these vessels, while the execution of them is peculiarly ingenious. Dr. Layard states with regard to them—

"The inside, and not the outside, of these vessels is ornamented. The embossed figures have been raised in the metal by a blunt instrument, three or four strokes of which in many instances very ingeniously produce the image of an animal. Even those ornaments which are not embossed but incised, appear to have been formed by a similar process, except that the punch was applied on the inside. The tool of the graver has been sparingly used."

Some idea may be formed of the elaborate character of their ornamentation, when it is stated, that in one dish, not more than nine or ten inches in diameter, more than six hundred figures of animals may be distinctly seen, counted, and drawn. Many of the objects, and especially the bells, have been carefully analyzed at the Museum of Practical Geology, and the curious fact has been discovered that the latter contain one part of tin to ten of copper, the exact proportions of modern bell-metal.

"The tin," adds Dr. Layard, "was probably obtained from Phenicia; and consequently that used in the bronzes of the British Museum may actually have been exported nearly three thousand years ago from the British Isles! We find the Assyrians and Babylonians making an extensive use of this metal, which was probably one of the chief articles of trade supplied by the cities of the Syrian coast, whose seamen sought for it on the distant shores of the Atlantic."

Many reports have been spread with regard to the discovery of the Royal Throne, and much misapprehension has arisen as to the state in which it was found, and as to the objects which were found with it. It is satisfactory to learn from Dr. Layard's own clear statement what was really the case:—

"In the further corner of the chamber," says Dr. Layard, "to the left hand, stood the royal throne. Although it was utterly impossible, from the complete state of decay of the materials, to preserve

any part of it entire, I was able, by carefully removing the earth, to ascertain that it resembled in shape the chair of state of the king, as seen in the sculptures of Kouyunjik and Khorsabad, and particularly that represented in the bas-relief already described of Sennacherib receiving the captives and spoil, after the conquest of the city of Lachish. With the exception of the legs, which appear to have been partly of ivory, it was of wood, cased or overlaid with bronze, as the throne of Solomon was of ivory overlaid with gold. The metal was most elaborately engraved and embossed with symbolical figures and ornaments, like those embroidered on the robes of the early Nimroud king, such as winged deities struggling with griffins, mythic animals, men before the sacred tree, and the winged lion and bull. As the woodwork over which the bronze was fastened by means of small nails of the same material, had rotted away, the throne fell to pieces, but the metal casing was partly preserved."

All of these fragments which it has been possible to preserve, are now in the British Museum, where it is to be hoped that they may for awhile defy the destroying agency of the atmosphere. In the end, however, there is no doubt that they will moulder away in dust, as in the great part of them there is not an atom of the original metal remaining. The form of each object may, nevertheless, be yet recognised in the evanescent green rust which occupies the place where there was once metal. Though Dr. Layard was occupied incessantly and with great assiduity, during the first eight months after he had arrived in Assyria, in pursuing his excavations in the mounds of Kouyunjik and Nimroud, he found time also to make more than one journey into the surrounding districts, and to pay visits to the wild tribes who were encamped in the plains of that part of Asia. Perhaps to the general reader the most interesting portion of this volume will be the many passages devoted to the description of the different people and localities with which he was thus thrown in contact. Since the days of Burkhardt, it may truly be said, that no one has seen so much, or has described with such minute faithfulness, the daily life, habits, and manners of the 'children of the desert.' Indeed, it is probable that no traveller ever before was from taste and temperament so completely at home among them. If we have admired the energy with which he endured almost incredible labours, and the untiring patience and resolution with which he pursued his excavations, when every one else would have given them up, even more do we admire the marvellous tact and sagacity which he exhibits when living in the tents and in the midst of the wildest of Arab hordes. Nor is the secret of the wonderful influence which he exerted over them hard to perceive, for almost everywhere we find him exercising the pleasing offices of liberator or peace-maker. Here he is engaged in restoring to his family some Shiekh who had been imprisoned by the misapplied vengeance of the Turkish rulers; there, undertaking a perilous journey to bring together and to set at one, the hostile chiefs of hostile tribes, who, to their mutual ruin, had been long separated by the blood-feud. Nor are the geographical details of his journeys of less interest and value. Thus, on the plains of the Záb, from time immemorial the battle-field of Europe and Asia, we find him tracing, step by step, the marches of Xenophon and Alexander, and the retreat of Darius, never forgetting the appropriate classical reference, or the not less valuable scriptural allusion, which some acci-

dental circumstance of the time brings before his well-stored mind and active memory. It is difficult to select where all is so interesting, yet perhaps his journey to Khabour, (the Chebar of Ezekiel and the classical Chaboras,) which he undertook during the spring of 1850, may be justly considered, in a geographical point of view, to be the most valuable, as he was enabled to survey and lay down on his map a wide district of country which was practically unknown to European research, and only one end of which had been surveyed by Colonel Chesney during the Euphrates expedition. The description, too, of Arab life, and of the charming scenery through which his caravan travelled, is almost as exhilarating to the reader as it must have been to those who were themselves actors in the scenes described. So perfect is the illusion of the eloquent language in which it is conveyed, that we seem in reading to be present and participants in each event narrated; now galloping across the flower-besprent plains with the wildest of the Bedouins, anon joining heart and soul with Rassam in the war choruses of his Jebours.

The Pilgrim's Progress of John Bunyan.
Edited by the Rev. Charles Neale, M.A.

Warden of Sackville College. J. H. Parker. We had occasion last year ('L. G.' 1852, p. 745) to notice "an improved *Paradise Lost*," the work of an English clergyman, the Rev. Charles Eyre, who stated in his preface that his design was to give more "exquisite finish" to the verses of the poor blind bard, "to draw off the excessive flow of learning," and thereby "to remove that obscurity and heaviness with which Milton is sometimes justly chargeable." Poor Mr. Eyre! We spoke of his benevolent purpose and miserable performance with leniency, as we thought that a man professing to mend Milton could hardly be a fit object of rational censure. The Rev. Charles Neale has published an edition of the 'Pilgrim's Progress,' in which he also has attempted to improve the original. According to this reverend gentleman, "the work, in the state in which John Bunyan left it, cannot safely be put into the hands of children," and as he, the editor, considers that it teaches "formal heresy," "he cannot be called dishonest for making his author speak what he believes that, with more knowledge, that author would have said!" We regard Mr. Neale's conduct as unquestionably dishonest; and the design with which the alterations are made renders the literary forgeries the more unjustifiable. But we will allow the editor to give his own defence of what he has done before making further comments:—

"If, as I believe, the work in its original state cannot safely be put into the hands of children, and if, as I also believe, in its present edition it can, I shall have done so good a deed, that I may well bear a laugh from those with whom literary merits alone for religious defects. Yet I cannot but add that, in my opinion, the excessive depreciation of the Pilgrim's Progress has been followed by somewhat of an over-estimation of its purely literary character. That its style is, on the whole, a nervous specimen of pure homely Saxon we may believe most fully, without thereby being pledged to admire every clause, or to think that not a word could be changed for the better. Colloquialisms are not always easy, nor vulgarity strength.

"There is yet one objection which is sometimes urged against such adaptations. The moral right of altering an author's works is denied to an editor. He wrote and published, it is said, what he believed in the truth. To his own Master he has stood or has

fallen. What you now teach, and teach in his name, he would have regarded as falsehood; it is dishonest to use his influence, his talents, his popularity, for the purpose of overthrowing his opinions.

Theoretically the objection is plausible; practically men seem to disregard it: so many adaptations are made by all parties to suit their own views. And, perhaps, a reasonable defence is found in the following consideration. The author, whose works are altered, wished, it is to be assumed, to teach the truth. In the editor's judgment, the alterations have tended to the more complete setting forth that truth:—that is, to the better accomplishment of the author's design. If the editor's views of the truth are correct, he is justified in what he does: if they are false he is to be blamed for originally holding them, but cannot be called dishonest for making his author speak what he believes that, with more knowledge, that author would have said.

"This, or some such consideration, seems to be usually received in justification of the numerous adaptations with which the age abounds. At all events the present edition cannot bear the blame,—by those who think it blame-worthy,—of having originated the idea."

The idea of altering the 'Pilgrim's Progress' originated with the Jesuits, who wisely judged that a book so popular all over the world could be advantageously turned to account for their own ends. Editions were accordingly prepared for circulation in popish countries. This is the precedent which Mr. Neale refers to. But few will accept jesuitical authority as an extenuating plea. No editor has a right to take advantage of an author's genius and popularity to insinuate opinions of his own by altering or adding to the original text. He may append notes, explanatory or controversial, but to falsify the text itself is against all rules of honourable dealing. With regard to the minor alterations in the style and diction of the work, the editor "changes for the better" the "colloquialisms" and "vulgarity" of the 'Pilgrim's Progress.' He thinks that the literary merit of the book is over-estimated. Better judges do not think so. Macaulay concludes his brilliant review of Southey's edition of Bunyan with this remark—"Though there were many clever men in England during the latter half of the seventeenth century, there were only two minds which possessed the imaginative faculty in a very eminent degree. One of these minds produced the 'Paradise Lost,' the other the 'Pilgrim's Progress.'" Dr. Johnson said, that Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress' was one of the few books he wished was longer. If Mr. Neale will look into any history of English literature he will see in what estimation the immortal allegory of the Pilgrim is held. Its being printed in about thirty languages, spoken by more than half the inhabitants of the globe, sufficiently attests its world-wide popularity. We would not have noticed Mr. Neale's edition on grounds of literary judgment or taste, but the moral delinquency displayed in altering the substance of such a work deserves the severest censure. The notes show that the editor is as little capable of understanding the meaning of the book as he is of appreciating its style and diction.

Bannerford; or, The Valley of Gold. A Tale of our own Times. 3 vols. Bentley.

THE chief merit of this tale consists in its graphic delineations of life at the Californian diggings. The strange medley of people from all parts of the world, attracted to the gold regions of Western America, supplies endless

diversity of character, which saves a writer of fiction from any difficulty of invention. The hero of the tale is a young Englishman who has left home in consequence of having killed his brother during a hasty love quarrel. With a faithful servant, and a still more trusty and devoted Sandwich islander, picked up during the voyage out, Martin Bannerford proceeds, under an assumed name, to San Francisco. The scenes of the beginning and end of the story are in England; but they are so much like the hundred-and-one novels of the day, that they have little interest for English readers compared with the less familiar pictures of Californian life. Many authors have given admirable sketches of Yankee character and of the native Indians; but there is a novelty in their being brought in contact with the strangers from Europe and Asia, as is done in the tale of 'The Valley of Gold.' Without giving any outline of the story, we may best recommend the book by presenting some specimens of the author's style in dealing with subjects not worn threadbare by writers of fiction. Indeed, it is only in these unusual scenes that the work is successful, the parts relating to civilized life being very inferior both in invention and style, and 'got up' evidently from novel reading rather than from knowledge of good society. But the rough life of the diggers, and other semi-savage denizens of America, appears to be drawn from personal observation and experience. Passing the early chapters, we give the description of San Francisco as it appeared to the voyagers on arriving from England:—

"The vessel had cleared the long narrow channel, and the magnificent and spacious harbour of San Francisco lay extended before them.

"The view that was then presented to the eyes of the wonder-struck gazers, was such as no other port in the world could show, or compete with in grandeur and beauty.

"Calm and smooth as the glassy surface of Loch Katrine on a summer's evening, the mighty bay stretched out all its vast length and breadth—where the united navies of the world might not only ride at anchor, but go through their evolutions.

"A range of lofty mountains separated the waters of the bay from the ocean, and it would seem as if they had at some distant time forced their way through some narrow gorge in the lofty chain, and so worn a passage for themselves to the bosom of the great Pacific.

"At the foot of these mountains lay the town of San Francisco, cool, and quietly resting in the huge shadows they threw, while round its outskirts stretched green plains dotted here and there with flourishing haciendas or farm-houses, round which were grazing countless herds of cattle.

"So clear and pure was the atmosphere, that even across the bay their eyes could distinguish the cattle grazing round the long low white cottages, embosomed in trees on the green hill-sides, while the lofty tops were bathed in the reflected glories of the glowing sunset.

"The placid surface of the bay was broken, here by a jutting rock that rose frowning from its transparent depths, there by an islet of emerald green, that seemed to repose calmly on its glassy bosom.

"All seemed to smile a welcome to the wearied sea-beaten voyagers, and not a heart was there but beat with emotion at the lovely sight that lay before them."

The town is not so charming as it appeared from the bay after the long voyage. The enchantment lent by distance vanished before the sights and sounds that met the eyes and ears of the adventurers:—

"As they proceeded along Walter-street, which

led up into the town, they encountered many faces with which they had formed an acquaintance during the passage, but a hurried nod or a single word, and sometimes not even that, was all that could be spared from business now.

"Walter-street was busy enough; carretas or native carts, waggons laden with cases, and casks, lumbered heavily along. Pack-horses neighed and plunged; but on pushed the eager crowd. The stores were thronged with buyers and sellers mingled up together. The drawl of the Yankee was changed to a sharp ringing treble, as he responded to the deep growl of the Mexican, or rather Californian vaquero. Frenchmen chattered and grinned as they bargained for spades, which the Yankee store-keepers priced almost at their weight in silver. Oaths in harsh German, deep Dutch, French, Spanish, and English, resounded on all sides. Poor half-naked dirty-looking Indians, who had come to beg, or steal, or perhaps buy a draught of fire-water, were unceremoniously kicked aside by buyer and seller alternately.

"The brothers paused, and looked on with wonderment—but Kanacka hurried them on past the busy stores in Walter-street, and led them to one of more imposing appearance in Portsmouth-street, just beyond, where the throngs were not so thick, nor the goods exposed for sale so varied in appearance.

"As was the case with many of the new houses, that sprung up like mushrooms wherever there was room for them to grow in the rapidly extending town, the store of which Jonathan Snap (Ky.) was owner, had been hastily run up, and though its appearance was substantial, the structure was composed of little else but wood and plaster. The older edifices of the town, squat and low, were built of adobes, or unburnt bricks, and though far more solid in reality, were quite put in the shade by their new and showy neighbours. Many—in fact, perhaps, the majority of them—were deserted, and whimsical inscriptions on many of the closed doors accounted for the deserted appearance of the buildings, by the information that their owners or occupiers were gone to the diggings."

Kanacka, mentioned in the foregoing extract, is the Sandwich islander whose life had been saved during the voyage by one of the Bannerfords, and attached himself thenceforth to the party. His character is the best conceived and sustained in the story. One of the earliest services performed for his young masters was the sale of some tools brought out from England. The following scene took place with Kentucky storekeeper, for whom Kanacka proved a match:—

"What can I do for you, strangers?" he inquired, in a drawling tone; 'Jonathan Snap is a dealer in stores of all kinds, and gold-dust, which you are come to get by diggin', and not either to buy or sell I calcilate.'

"As he concluded, he gave a vicious deep cut into his stick, relieved himself with a hawk to the corner, and ended by throwing a searching sidelong glance at the brothers and their guide.

"We have come," began Harold, who took upon himself the office of spokesman, 'to ask you if you——'

"Kanacka had listened attentively, and now with a nudge of the elbow and a deprecating look of his dark eyes—which seemed to say, Pardon my interference, but leave him to me—he interrupted Harold by stepping nearer to the desk, and saying, with an air of importance,—

"Dess my young massa. Me Kanacka—Sandwich Tom. Dis mass come for know—if you hab shovel, and mattock, and plenty of tools for carpenter? He muss have plenty—good fuse quality, and danc de price. Now, hab you got dese for sell?"

"Harold listened in surprise, and with some anger, to the false statement of his guide. He was going to speak, when his brother touched his shoulder, and whispered that it would be well not to interfere at present.

"Well, strangers, I guess you have come to the

right man to let you have what you necessitate. But, darn it, you have come at a difficult time, for the price of them goods is ris wonderfully, that's a fact.'

"Muss hab—muss hab dem," said the Sandwicher, positively.

"Aye, dark-skin, all cry out 'must have' that are goin' your arrand, and are as eager as a nigger after a pomatum-pot. The goods you can have, that's a fact; but I tell you the price is ris: and as for plenty, that depends; for I reckon my stock is the biggest in Francisco, and it is darn'd low."

"Eh, not plenty? Me tell massa here, dat de store for us be Massa Snap; ebry tink plenty dere, and much cheap; dat true, eh?"

"The storekeeper gave a knowing leer, and muttered, half to himself, 'The dark-skin scents a per centage, I guess.'

"Kanacka continued—'We must try oder store, Massa Snap, eh? Me tink plenty goods in Francisco, and much cheap.'

"I wish I know'd where to find them, then," answered the Yankee, his tone losing its slow drawl, and getting sharper in key. "I guess no man in Francisco has better stock than Jonathan Snap; but them goods is scarce, and every one is askin' for 'em: but I'll call my help, I see him lounging against the door—the idle rascal, he means to make a bolt of it, I can see; but that is neither here nor there; and as to them goods, strangers, you can have 'em; but as to them being plentiful or low in figure, Mr. Canister Tom, there are them as knows better, and would be glad to get sick at any price in Francisco just now, that's a fact."

"The chips now fell fast and thick from the whittle-stick: Kanacka took off the round tarpaulin hat he wore, and rubbing his head vigorously, cried—

"Stop, Massa Snap; no call help. I cussed head—make dam mistake. Massa no want *buy* such goods, but he hab dem to *sell*; all fass quality, plenty—you say, any price—and so I say again, Massa Snap, dam de price."

"The Yankee looked a moment at the sailor, and his eyes had a merry twinkle in them as he slapped down knife and whittling-stick on the desk, and burst out into a loud hearty laugh, in which all joined.

"There was not the slightest ill-humour in his look as he cried, 'Done! done brown! and that by a dark-skin, too. Snap is done brown, that is a fact, stranger.'

"The Yankee seemed to relish the joke keenly, and again threw himself back in a good-humoured roar.

"Kanacka meanwhile had indulged in a triumphant chuckle, and with a meaning glance, had taken a list of the goods they had to dispose of, from Harold, who held it ready in his hand.

"Well, Mr. Canister Tom," said the store-keeper at last, "what are the goods? where do they lie? and what is the figure?"

"His dry yellow-skinned face resumed its wonted gravity, though there was still a humorous twinkle in his eye, as he continued, 'Sharp's the word, strangers, now that we really understand each other. I told you the truth though, I opineate; I would have just given it a tilt on the other side had I know'd that you wanted to go a-head on the other tack. Give us the invoice, dark-skin; and where are the goods?"

With the intelligence and civilization that many of the islanders of the Pacific have obtained from the Anglo-Saxons, it is to be regretted that they have acquired some of their evil habits too, as Kanacka's mode of speech indicates. But in his mouth words originally of malediction are thoughtlessly used by way of emphasis only. The reflections of Mr. Snap, after the party left his store, refer to diggers in general, and Kanacka and his party in particular, and very just is the conclusion of his meditation upon the visit of the youngsters from the old country and their

'eute attendant—"these diggins whip creation, and bring over all sorts, they do." In the American part of the book there are other interesting subjects introduced. The author makes apology for taking some liberty with the topography of the ruined cities of Central America, and with the chronology of some events connected with the Mexican war of independence. These liberties might have been avoided with very little art in the management of the story, and if the book were likely to be one of permanent interest the fault would be matter of regret. But the author is chiefly fortunate in his subject being somewhat new, and in its presenting scope for great variety of unusual incidents. In those parts relating to more familiar life the inferiority of style is apparent, and the rough writing of other portions of the novel is tolerated from its suitability to the ruder scenes which are described.

Narrative of a Mission to Central Africa, performed in the Years 1850-51, under the Orders and at the Expense of Her Majesty's Government. By the late James Richardson. 2 vols. 8vo. Chapman and Hall.

FROM Dr. Layard's inspiring work, framed of materials sifted and matured by the explorer's learning, we turn with melancholy interest to the immature but intelligent narrative of another traveller, whose researches, imbued with the same enterprising spirit and fulness of hope, and carried on with equal vigour, were brought to a premature though not unfruitful close by the hand of death. The dark enigma of Central-African exploration had occupied Mr. Richardson's attention from an early age. He had already crossed the great Saharan Desert, and entered therefore upon this second expedition with a mind fully alive to its dangers. "I am having all our letters of recommendation for the interior copied," says the traveller in one of his journals, "to be sent home to Government, so that if anything happen to us they may know what kind of support we have received. If anything happen! The presence of that doubt gives a solemnity and an importance to the most trifling thing we do." Mr. Richardson penetrated far beyond the limit of his former journey, and composed during the year that was spared to him a record of his adventures in eight small closely-written volumes, besides despatches and scattered memoranda, which are here arranged by Mr. Bayle St. John in the form of a cheerful narrative.

It was on the 30th of March, 1850, that Mr. Richardson started from Tripoli, and on the 4th March, 1851, at a place called Ungaratura, 1500 miles in the interior, and within six days' journey of that great central lake which was the subsequent boast and grave of his companion, that he died. The Prussian savans, Drs. Barth and Overweg, accompanied the author of this posthumous narrative as scientific observers, and intelligence of the death of the latter has reached us, as our readers know, even within the few days that have elapsed since the sheets of the present volumes issued from the press. Baron Humboldt feelingly alludes to it in the postscript of a letter which appears to-day in another part of our paper. The objects of Mr. Richardson's journey were three-fold—geographical, political, and commercial; to explore the regions beyond those hitherto reached by European enterprise; to effect

treaties with the natives; and to convince them that by trading with the wide world in the natural products of their country—in ivory, drugs, ostrich feathers, wax, indigo, skins, &c., much more may be gained, with a far greater amount of happiness, than by exporting and dealing with their own species. "A profound conviction," says Mr. St. John, "seems to have early possessed Mr. Richardson that something might be done towards ameliorating the condition of the African nations, if we were only better acquainted with them. This it was that sustained and guided his footsteps; and all who knew him unite in testifying that he concealed beneath a pleasant cheerful exterior the character of a Christian gentleman, and an ardent crusader against this worst form of oppression."

How touchingly this trait is illustrated at different points of the narrative the following incident, which occurred soon after leaving Tripoli, will show:—

"About noon, as we were traversing these solitudes in our usual irregular order of march, a crowd of moving things came in sight. It proved to be a slave-caravan, entirely composed of young girls. The Gadamsi merchants who owned them recognised me, and shook me by the hand. Our old black woman was soon surrounded by a troop of the poor slave-girls; and when she related to them how she was returning free to her country under the protection of the English, and wished them all the same happiness, they fell round her weeping and kissing her feet. One poor naked girl had slung at her back a child, with a strange look of intelligence. I was about to give her a piece of money, but could not; for, the tears bursting to my eyes, I was obliged to turn away. The sight of these fragments of families stolen away to become drudges or victims of brutal passion in a foreign land, invariably produced this effect upon me. This caravan consisted of some thirty girls and twenty camel-loads of elephants' teeth. They had been seventy days on their way from Ghât, including, however, thirty-four days of rest. Most of these poor wretches had performed journeys on their way to bondage which would invest me with imperishable renown as a traveller could I accomplish them."

The extent of country traversed between the Mediterranean and Mourzuk, *via* Mizdah, is thus philosophically divided by the author into zones or regions. The zones on this side the Tripoline range are abundantly watered; but all beyond are visited only by occasional showers, or are entirely without rain, having little vegetation but what depends upon irrigation from wells:—

"1st zone. This includes the sandy flat of the suburbs of the town of Tripoli, with the date-palm plantations and the sand-hills contiguous.

"2nd zone. The mountains, or Tripoline Atlas, embracing the rising ground with their influence on the northern side, and the olive and fig plantations, covering the undulating ground on the southern side, where the Barbary vegetation is seen in all its vigour and variety. This may also be emphatically called the region of rain.

"3rd zone. The limestone hills and broad valleys, gradually assuming the aridity of the Sahara as you proceed southward, between the town of Kaleebah and Ghareeah; the olive plantations and cornfields disappear entirely in this tract.

"4th zone. The Hamadah, an immense desert plateau, separating Tripoli from Fezzan.

"5th zone. The sandy valleys and limestone rocks between El-Hasee and Es-Shaty, where herbage and trees are found, affording food to numerous gazelles, hares, and the wadan.

"6th. The sand between Shaty and El-Wady, piled in masses, or heaps, extending in undulating plains, and occasionally opening in small valleys with herbage and trees.

"7th. The sandy valleys of El-Wady, covered

with forests of date-palms, through which peep a number of small villages.

"8th. The plateau of Mourzuk, consisting of shallow valleys, ridges of low sandstone hills, and naked flats, or plains, sometimes of sand, at others covered with pebbles and small stones."

The fertile environs of Tripoli were not parted from without regret. "Here," says the traveller, "were the last olive-groves that were to cheer our eyes for many a long month—many a long year maybe:—

"The caravan was soon lost to view as it wound along the track by which we had come. This day was exceedingly hot, whereas the previous days had reminded us of a cool summer in England. The nights have hitherto been clear, and the zodiacal light is always brilliant. Our blacks keep up pretty well. There are now nine of them; five men, three women, and a boy. They eat barley-meal and oil, and now and then get a cup of coffee. I also feed the Fezzanees marabout, beside those specially attached to the expedition. As to the camel-drivers, they are an ill-bred, disobliging set, and I give them nothing extra. How different are our negroes! They are most cheerful. As we proceed, they run hither and thither collecting edible herbs; and, like children, making the way more long in their sport."

They as frequently, however, quarrelled and made it up again. The frightful plateau or Hamadah was crossed with difficulty:—

"This night we moved at comparatively a rapid pace—nearly three miles an hour; for there was scarcely any temptation to the camels to linger for browsing purposes, and the drivers seemed desperately anxious to get over as much ground as possible at once. At first all went well enough; and now and then, even the blacks, who were on foot, braved the Hamadah with a lively ditty—celebrating some Lucy Long of Central Africa. But by degrees these merry sounds ceased to be heard; and the hastily-moving crowd of the caravan insensibly stretched out into longer line. The poor women were beginning to knock up, and several fell at times from mere exhaustion. We proceeded, however, without stopping, for eleven hours, and after a long, dreary night indeed, halted at five in the morning, having reached the encampment of our German friends. * * *

"Although we became accustomed to the desolate appearance of this district by degrees, we counted eagerly the days and hours that brought us nearer the confines of Fezzan. Every night's incidents were the same. On we went, nodding drowsily on our camels, sometimes dropping off into a sound sleep, variegated by a snatch of pleasant dreams. But these indulgences are dangerous. I was more than once on the point of falling off. By day, few objects of interest presented themselves; linets and finches fluttered here and there upon the rare bushes, whilst swallows joined the caravan, and skimmed round and round for hours among the camels, almost brushing the faces of the drivers. Lizards glanced and snakes writhed across the path. We started three wadans or mouflon, churlish animals, fond of such solitudes. As to the birds, our people say they do not drink in winter, and in summer leave the Hamadah altogether. Four-fifths of the surface were utterly barren. Little mounds marked the graves of children, slaves who had perished on the way from inner Africa. * * *

"It was about two in the afternoon when we reached the camping-ground, all our people shouting, 'Be-Selameh el Hamadah!' Farewell to the Hamadah! I cried out the same words in a joyful voice; for, although now that the dangers of the plateau were overcome they seemed diminished in my eyes, yet I felt that we had escaped from a most trying march with wonderful good fortune. It is difficult to convey an idea of the horror and desolation of so vast a tract of waterless and uninhabited country. They alone who have breathed the sharp air of its blank nakedness can appreciate it, or understand how any accidental delay, sickness, the bursting of the water-skins, the straying of the

camels, might produce incalculable sufferings, and even death. 'Be-Selameh el Hamadah!' then, with all my heart. 'Be-Selameh! be-Selameh!' again rings through the caravan, as we reach at length our camping-ground, and throw ourselves at full-length under the pleasing shade."

But we must hasten on to Mourzuk. The caravan, with its straggling camels and men, are treading slowly, but continually, over heavy sand, with the hot wind breathing fiercely upon it in a temperature of 120° to 130° (100° to 102° in the shade); every one keeps listlessly and sullenly to his camel, dizzied by its ceaseless swinging motion, and indifferent to the unvarying hazy dream-landscape around. "There is a desert-intoxication," remarks the camel-rider, "which must be felt to be appreciated." The Fezzan capital is at length reached:—

"Mourzuk itself, the seat of the Pashalic,—distant about four hundred and twenty miles from Tripoli, in a straight line, and five hundred, counting the sinuosities of the road, *vid* Benioled, Bonjem, and Sockna, is a rising town, becoming daily more salubrious by the improvements made since the residence of the Turks here, and the subjection of the inhabitants to a more orderly and powerful government than they had been accustomed to. The British consul, Mr. Gagliuffi, has rendered important aid to the administration, in embellishing the appearance of Mourzuk, and giving it the air and character of a Turkish city of the coast. Our camel-drivers pretend that it is already superior to Tripoli. At the consul's suggestion a colonnade has been built in the main street, in front of the shops, affording shelter from the fiery rays of the summer sun, as well as being an agreeable place for the natives to lounge under and make their purchases. He was also the principal promoter of the erection of new barracks for the troops, and the appropriation of a large house as a hospital for the poor. His last improvement is the plantation of a garden of the choice fruit-trees and vegetables of the coast; and his example has been imitated by the Bim Bashaw, commandant of the troops, who is now laying out a garden in a conspicuous part of the city."

Here Mr. Richardson remained several days, having to wait the arrival from Ghât of an escort of Tuariek chieftains, with whom he had made some acquaintance during his former excursion. His journal is now more circumstantial, and has the form of a diary, of which the following are characteristic and pleasant samples:—

"9th.—Received a visit from the acting Governor, and presented him with a bottle of snuff. Like other great men, this Pasha makes a great consumption of rappee, and empties nearly a box a-day.

"10th.—The military seem to have taken a fancy to us. Here comes the Commandant, to return our call, with all the officers of the garrison. Smiles and courtesy are the order of the day. Dr. Overweg brings out some of his scientific instruments, and the knowing ones have an opportunity of showing their ignorance. All passes off well. Mr. Gagliuffi observes: 'You would not have had so much attention paid to you in Tripoli.' Possibly; but this may partly be accounted for by the rarity of Europeans at Mourzuk. Familiarity has not had time to breed contempt.

"11th.—There is excitement in the town. What news? The new acting Governor, my old acquaintance of Ghadamez, Rais Mustapha, is in sight, hull above the horizon. We all go out to meet him, and soon see his *cortège* breaking between the groves. This is the gayest and most spirited scene I have witnessed since leaving Tripoli. Mustapha brings his staff and 200 Arab cavaliers with him, to relieve the Fezzan irregulars. They make a gallant-looking body of men as they come swiftly on. All the authorities of the town, with whatever cavalry is already collected here, pour out of the gates to pay their compliments; and then come

crowds of the lower classes of citizens, with their rude bagpipes, which scream discordantly. The horsemen galloped hither and thither in the plain whilst the interview between the great men took place, and effectually drowned all the polite things that were said by their trampling and harraking. We rode up likewise to welcome the new great man. Mustapha looked well, was excellently mounted, and dressed almost like an European officer. He smiled graciously on seeing his old friend of Ghadamez, and shook me by the hand; he also recognised the Germans, having seen them at Zaweeah, near Tripoli. Satisfied with this little interview, we drew aside, and the procession moved towards the gate. There was instantly a rush of the Arab horsemen, every one trying to get in front; and as the entry was narrow an obstruction soon took place. We drew aside, and called out to those who were pressing on to make way for the Governor. One fellow would not hear; and Mustapha himself riding up, lashed him with a small whip across the shoulders. Bad taste; but perhaps excusable in this case, if ever. These lawless soldiery can never be taught good manners, without which true discipline is impossible. However, we at length got within the gate, and the procession poured along the streets, the women *loo-looing* as we passed, the bagpipes shrieking louder than ever, the crowd buzzing, the horses thundering, the cavaliere shouting. In fine, this hubbub carried us quite back into the regions of civilisation, where men collect on public occasions often without any real joy, and by mere process of action and reaction succeed in working themselves up into a state of boisterous enthusiasm. * * *

"28th.—I am studying rural life in the neighbourhood of Mourzuk, as if it were to be my occupation. Scarcely a day passes that I do not escape from the crowded town and wander, either morning or evening, into the gardens, the groves, and the fields. The water raised by rude machinery from the wells is always dancing along in little runnels. The chattering of women crosses my path right and left. Groups of labourers or gardeners occur frequently. A man this day valued a date-palm at a mahboub, and I am told that the greater number are not worth more than a shilling of English money. To avert the evil eye from the gardens, the people put up the head of an ass, or some portion of the bones of that animal. The same superstition prevails in all the oases that stud the north of Africa, from Egypt to the Atlantic, but the people are unwilling to explain what especial virtue there exists in an ass's skull. We go sometimes to shoot doves in the gardens; but these birds are very shy, and after the first shot fly from tree to tree and keep out of range. So we shut about making observations, to console ourselves for the loss of sport. We noticed several cotton-bushes, but this useful plant is not cultivated here except that it may ornament the gardens with its green. I have just eaten of the heart of the date-tree. It is of very delicious bitter, and is a choice dish at feasts.

"I met with a number of the suburban inhabitants engaged in celebrating a wedding. First came a group of women, dancing and throwing themselves into variety of slow, languid, and lascivious postures, to the sound of some very primitive string-instrument. Towards this group all the women of the neighbouring huts were gathering, some merely as spectators, others bringing dishes of meat. Beyond was a crowd of men, among whom was the bridegroom helping the musicians to make a noise. These musicians were an old man and old woman, each above ninety years of age. The latter beat a calabash with a stick, whilst the former drew a bow over a single string tied to another calabash. The bridegroom had got hold of a brass kettle, with which he supplied his contribution to the din. Preparations for supper were going on; and, the harmony announcing this fact, idlers were coming in flocks from the distant hamlets and the fields. Two new huts had been built, one for the bride and the other for the bridegroom."

Leaving Mourzuk, the traveller notes with

some disquietude the unhealthy variations of temperature. "We have hot and cold blasts together. I hope and pray that I shall be able to bear up against the heat. What a magnificent sky we had last night—never did I behold the stars in greater glory. At about eight o'clock Jupiter was setting towards the horizon like a sun!" The heavens are frequently described as having a most luminous appearance, and we hope truly that the new traveller, Dr. Vogel, will be spared to make and bring home some good observations, both astronomical and magnetic.

Drs. Barth and Overweg seem not to have been particularly sociable with Mr. Richardson. Immersed in their speculations and fervent scientific zeal, they were mostly in advance of the caravan. At Tripoli they took the lead, and the Hamadah they traversed by day, while our author followed by night. From Mourzuk to Ghât they took a different route:—

"12th.—The Germans were preparing to start early in the morning; they are obliged to lighten everything, and reduce each camel load to two and a half, or even two cantars. The Tuaricks will not carry more; generally their maharees are small, and they have few stray camels. The Germans went off in good style and great spirits. They propose to accompany a caravan of Tanelkum Tuaricks, who go by way of Aroukeen, leaving Ghât far on the right. I was not able to persuade them to delay their departure, so that we might all travel together. * * * *

"According to Hateetah, the Germans, who are pushing on ahead, run great danger. Yusuf tells me that he is, in reality, extremely angry with my companions for proceeding alone. He wishes, perhaps, to get a present from them too; and swears that he knows nobody but Yakob (my desert name). They are not English, he says, but French. Besides, they have got twenty camel-loads of goods, which he will seize if they do not pay him something. Of course this is all harmless bluster, and means nothing."

Arrived in the country of the Ghât Tuaricks, with the thermometer at 105° under the tent, the parties again met, and the curiosity of the savans was excited to explore the celebrated Kasar Janoon, or Palace of Demons:—

"Our course is now south, over a high sandy plain. We are at length fairly in the Land of Demons, as the country of the Ghât Tuaricks is called by themselves. All around, the mountains take castellated forms, and high over all rises the Kasar Janoon, Palace or Citadel of the Ginn: a huge square mass of rock, said to be day in circuit, and bristling with turret-pinnacles, some of which must be seven hundred feet in height. Nothing but its magnitude can convince the eye at a distance that it is not a work raised by human hands, and shattered by time or warfare. Its vast disrupted walls tower gigantically over the plain. Here, as in another Pandemonium, the spirits of the desert collect from places distant thousands of miles, for the purpose of debate or prayer. It is a mosque as well as a hall of council, and a thesaurus to boot, for unimaginable treasures are buried in its caverns. Poor people love to forge wealthy neighbours for themselves. No Tuarick will venture to explore these Titanic dwellings, for, according to old compact, the tribes of all these parts have agreed to abstain from impudent curiosity, on condition of receiving advice and assistance from the spirit-inhabitants of their country. In my former visit I nearly lost my life in an attempt to explore it, and was supposed to have been misled by mocking-spirits: little did I think that this superstition was about to receive another confirmation."

Drs. Barth and Overweg, nothing daunted, resolved to explore this enchanted castle;

and, as will be seen by the sequel, the former had a narrow escape of his life:—

"The Germans had determined to go and examine the Kasar, and were about to start just as I came out of my tent. They had had some altercation with Hateetah, because, partly for superstitious reasons, he would not give them a guide, and they had made up their minds to undertake the exploration alone. I saw Dr. Barth going off somewhat stiffly by himself; Dr. Overweg came to where I was standing, and asked Amankee, my Soudan servant, about the well near the Kasar, and then also went off. He said to me, 'I shall boil the water on the highest point, and then go along the top to the other end.' He was taking some points of the Kasar with the compass, and I observed to him, 'Take the eastern point.' Then he started. Yusuf called out after him, 'Take a camel with you, it is very distant.' Distressed at seeing them go alone, I told Amankee that if he would follow I would give him a present. He agreed, upon the condition that he should not be expected to ascend the Kasar; for he feared the Janoon. We then gave him dates, biscuits, and a skin of water, and he started after Dr. Overweg. I confess I had my fears about them. On arriving near the well, we pitched tent near an immense spreading old ethel, which afforded us some shade. I watched the changing aspect of the Kasar nearly all the time of our three hours' ride; and could not help thinking that the more it was examined the more marvellous did it appear. I then looked out to recognise the place where I was lost four years ago, and at last I thought I could distinguish the locality. The day wore on. It blew gales of hot wind. No Germans appeared, although it had been told them that we should only stop during the hot hours of the day. However, I anticipated that they would not arrive before sunset. Hateetah sent word, that as there was little water he should not move on till to-morrow. This was good news for the Germans.

"At last, about five o'clock P.M., Dr. Overweg appeared. He had experienced great thirst and fatigue; but, having the assistance of Amankee, he got back safe. He at once confessed his fears for Dr. Barth. I began to think this gentleman must either have gone to Ghât, or that some accident had befallen him. Soon, indeed, we began to have gloomy apprehensions, and to talk seriously of a search. The Tuaricks were not very civil, and Hateetah threw all the responsibility of the safety of my fellow-travellers on me. Dr. Overweg and several people went out in search of Dr. Barth just before sunset.

"Night closed in; no appearance of our friend. I hoisted a lamp on the top of the ethel, and made large fires as the sun went down, in hopes that their glare might be seen at a distance from the Kasar. Our servants returned without Dr. Overweg. He had promised to be back by sunset, and I began to fear some accident had befallen him likewise. The evening grew late, and Hateetah came to me, in a very nervous state, to inquire after the Germans. I endeavoured to compose him by telling him the responsibility was on us, and not on him. Dr. Overweg returned at midnight. He had thrown into the desert various pieces of paper, on which was written the direction of our encampment from the Kasar. We were very uneasy, and slept little, as may be imagined; but before we retired for the night Hateetah arranged a general search for the morning. Next morning, accordingly, at daybreak (16th), the search was commenced, by two camels scouring the environs of the desert. Dr. Overweg went with one of the parties, but returned at noon, bringing no news of Dr. Barth. Amankee with his party had, however, seen his footstep towards the north. This was most important, as it directed our attention that way, and we thought no more of his having gone to Ghât. We now calculated that our companion had been twenty-four hours without a drop of water, a gale of hot wind blowing all the time! Dr. Overweg proposed to me that we should offer a considerable reward, as the last effort. He mentioned twenty, but I increased the sum to fifty

dollars. This set them all to work, and a Tuarick with a maharee volunteered to search. I found it necessary, however, to give him two dollars for going, besides the proffered reward; he left at two P.M., and all the people were sent off by Hateetah a couple of hours after him.

"This was a dreadfully exciting day. I confess, that as the afternoon wore on I had given up nearly all hope, and continued the search merely as a matter of duty. Few will be able to imagine the anguish of losing a friend under such circumstances in the wide desert, where you may for ever remain uncertain how he came by his death, whether by the spear of a bandit, the claws of a wild beast, or by that still more deadly enemy, thirst. Just before sunset I was preparing fresh fires as a last resort, when I saw one of our blacks, the little Mahadée, running eagerly towards the encampment. Good news was in his very step. I hastened to meet him. He brought the joyful intelligence that Dr. Barth had been found, still alive, and even able to speak! The Tuarick whom I had despatched, in scouring the country with his maharee, had found him about eight miles from the camp, lying on the ground, unable to move. For twenty-four hours he had remained in the same position, perfectly exhausted with heat and fatigue. Our fires had not been unmarked by him, but they only served to show that we were doing our best to find him. He could not move a step towards them. On seeing his deliverers, he could just muster strength to say, 'Water, water!' He had finished the small supply he had taken with him the day before at noon, and had from that time suffered the most horrible tortures from thirst. He had even drunk his own blood."

Here we must break off the narrative of this affecting reminiscence, promising next week some details of the newer and more hazardous portion of the journey.

Ancient Irish Minstrelsy. By William H. Drummond, D.D., M.R.I.A. Hodges and Smith.

THE commotion raised by the appearance of Macpherson's 'Ossian,' is not yet altogether allayed. Of late years several learned men of Ireland have reproduced many old Ossianic or Fenian poems, and have shown how much greater claim the Irish Celts have to the poetic palm than their Scottish brethren. Dr. Drummond enters into this controversy with the ardour peculiar to his country. In the preface to the present collection of ancient minstrelsy he attacks poor Macpherson with vehement indignation, asserting his utter ignorance of the Erse language, his falsifications of Irish history, and his impudent plagiarisms from the bards of Erin. In his zeal to run down the Scottish editor of 'Ossian,' Dr. Drummond shows not a little indiscretion and inconsistency, as where he mentions, on the authority of Dr. Charles O'Connor, that when "certain ancient Irish manuscript verses were placed in Macpherson's hands by the keeper of the Bodleian Library, with a request to read and interpret them, he confessed that he could do neither." If this be true, the charge of direct copying and plagiarism very much falls to the ground. The truth is, that the traditions as sung by the Celtic bards and Senachies were common to both countries, and the variations of names and events, in the lapse of ages, and from local circumstances, can easily be accounted for without bringing charges of direct appropriation of Irish literature. The controversy is not worth the zeal and labour displayed in its prosecution. Wherever Macpherson got his materials, his own taste and genius led him to make far better use of them than all othe-

authors and editors of Celtic minstrelsy put together. Had 'Ossian' not appeared, the general public would to this day have known little of the results of the learned researches of Celtic and Irish archaeological explorers. But in the literary world the more recent labours of Irish editors are duly appreciated. In 1807 the Gaelic Society of Dublin first called general attention to the desirableness of promoting the study of Irish literature, and of publishing every fragment existing in the Gaelic language, a design which is now carried on by the 'Irish Archaeological Society,' founded in 1840, "for the printing of the genealogical, ecclesiastical, bardic, topographical, and historical remains of Ireland." The names of Dr. Charles O'Connor, editor of the 'Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores,' of Dr. John O'Donovan, translator of 'The Annals of the Four Masters,' Professor Owen Connellan, of Queen's College, Cork, the Rev. Dr. Macdonnell, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, Sir William Betham, and others, who by their talents or exertions have increased the store of literary reliques, are worthy of honourable distinction. The volume of 'Reliques,' by Miss Brooke, has chiefly brought the Ossianic minstrelsy before English readers, and the interest excited by the specimens in that work renders the present volume by Dr. Drummond the more acceptable. Of the importance of these ancient poems, in other than mere literary aspects, as in the illustration of Irish history and ethnology, we shall allow the author to speak, in the concluding words of his preliminary dissertation:—

"In conclusion, it may not be irrelevant to remind the reader that these Lays are not to be considered as idle inventions or sports of imagination, but as records of interesting matter in the history of Ireland; for instance, of the battle of Gavra, and the invasion of the Scandinavian king Magnus. Here the archaeologist and historian may find something to gratify their taste, and guide to curious investigation. Instances are not wanting to show that a bardish song has sometimes led to a rare discovery, as to that of the pieces of gold found near Ballyshannon by the Bishop of Derry, whose curiosity was excited by the song of an Irish harper, in all probability by the following lines in the Lay of Moira Borb, which record the death of a princely warrior, and describe the locality where he was interred:—

"In earth, beside the loud cascade,
The son of Sora's king we laid;
And on each finger placed a ring;
Of gold, by mandate of our king;
Such honours to the brave we give,
And bid their memory ever live."

"These Lays bear internal evidence that they are not the growth of an ignorant and barbarous age. They show that the people of Ireland had made no inconsiderable progress in civilization and refinement, and in the useful and ornamental arts—as in vocal and instrumental music—in the fabrication of arms, in the chasing of gems, in works of gold and silver, and in blazonry. The beautiful brooches, rings, torques, golden crescents, and other precious ornaments, which, with various implements of bronze, still continue to be found in the earth, and many of which may be seen in the cabinets of the curious, are so exquisitely wrought and finished as to excite the emulation of modern artificers. The nobles and warriors were in manner courteous, frank, hospitable, 'jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel.' Their bearing to persecuted damsels, with their promptitude and bravery in espousing the cause and avenging the wrongs of the weak and oppressed, was equalled only by that of the knights of romance. They expressed a generous praise of the valour of their enemies, and lamented their untimely fate when they fell in battle. Of female beauty they felt the indomitable power, and evinced an enthusiastic admiration.

"As reliques of the minstrelsy which once flourished in Ireland, these Lays have a claim to as much attention as any other objects of antiquity—as much, at least, as is paid to broken columns, illegible inscriptions, and cenotaphs abroad—or dilapidated round-towers, fractured urns, trilithons, and ogham epitaphs at home."

The collection consists of above thirty poems, including 'The Lay of Magnus the Great,' 'The Battle of Gavra,' and other themes not unknown in general history. We select a poem on a subject less known, which will serve to show the nature of the Lays and the translator's style:—

"THE LAY OF THE DEATH OF CARRIL.

"The feast was spread in Tara's hall,
Where harp and cruit harmonious rung,
And wine-cups cheered the festival,
Till strife among the Fenians sprung.
Words of war wrath two warriors spoke,
And forth in fierce defiance broke;
Carril, the chief of noble men,
And Gaul, renowned in fight;
To prove, by wrestle on the green,
Superior skill and might.

"The ground, beneath their firm-set tread,
Was pressed as by dense weights of lead;
And high the panting of each chest,
The strife of heroes loud confess;
While round them, in no joyous mood,
In sad suspense the Fenians stood.

"As keen they strove, with tugs and wheels,
The turf was ploughed beneath their heels,
And many a weighty clod and stone
Updug, and to a distance thrown.
And neither, at the evening hour,
Could boast superior skill or power.

"Next morn again the champions met,
And each the other firmly grasped;
Firm planted, foot to foot they set,
Again in stern embraces clasped
They pulled, and pushed, and twined, and turned,
And fiercer still the conflict burned.
Till gushed the sweat-foam o'er each breast:—
But victory yet was unconquest.

"Then each the contest to decide,
And soothe, perchance, his wounded pride;
Resolved to prove by sword and shield
Who best his deadly arms could wield;
Brave Carril off in combat seen,
And Gaul of tempered weapons keen.

"Then front to front the warriors drew,
And fierce and loud the combat grew.
As met their swords in furious clash,
Bright glancing like the lightning's flash,
And sparkling streams of fire,
The noble Fenians standing near,

"Were sorely grieved their blows to hear,
And mourned their deadly ire.
With shattered steel the ground was strewn,
Their shields to pieces hacked and hewn,
Till breathless, said the tale to tell—
Prone to the dust, young Carril fell,
Carril the bold, the kind,
Of noble port—of generous mind.
Remorseless, cruel was the blow
That laid the youthful champion low.

"My son! my son! my darling child,
Beloved, magnanimous, and mild!"

Cried Finn—while anguish wrung his breast,
And dark his spirit sunk depressed,
As hides the radiant sun his head,
By sudden thunder-clouds o'erspread.
"Sad, sad thy death—cruel dart
That deeply wounds thy father's heart!
Clenched are thy teeth of whiteness fast,
Closed are thy eyes in lasting sleep.
Away thy manly strength has passed,
As bud and branch when tempests sweep.
No more advancing to the field;
My son, our battle's boast and pride,
With thou e'er strike the sounding shield,
Or combat by thy father's side.

"Would that some distant stranger's hand
Had wrought this mighty woe!
Or monarch, who the world commands,
Had struck the fatal blow;
Soon should his vanquished legions tell
That I avenged thy fate, full well.

"Blest, graceful Carril! be thy name,
Illustrous in the songs of fame,
For triumphs, in far distant lands,
Achieved by thy victorious hands.
Of Erin's warriors none could vie
With thee, in gentle courtesy.
The pride wert thou of Tara's hall,
Still foremost in the chase,
In mirth and glee supreme o'er all
The noble Fenian race!

"O would that in some glorious strife
Of heroes thou hadst lost thy life!

Youth of the auburn hair!
Soon would the sons of Cumhal move
In fields of carnage red, to prove,
For thee, a vengeance rare.
But now, in agony of wo,
They mourn their darling champion low.
"Sad, sad thy fate!" they well may cry,
"Not in some battle field to lie,
But thus to fall in single fight!"
For private wrong, not public right,
To vanish like a cloud of night!"

"For thee will Sora's maids deplore—
For thee their grief in tear-showers shed;
As mists that drop their watery store
Upon the cloud-wrapt mountain's head;
And pour upon the passing gale
Their long, deep, melancholy wail.
"The champion erst so tall, so strong,
So full of life our chiefie among,
Now lies devoid of arms and dress,
Pale, cold, and stark, and motionless,
Within a dark and narrow cell
Beneath the sword, for aye, to dwell.
Alas! alas! for such a grief
What power on earth can give relief!

"Along the pebbly strand to roam,
To breast the storm-swept ocean-foam,
Great was his joy—his joy to cheer,
With voice melodious sounding far,
The hounds to chase the full-grown deer,
And speed the sylvan war.

"O hero! cheerful, generous, kind,
Of open hand, of soul refined,
Beloved of friends;—among thy foes,
Whene'er thy martial spirit rose,
A torrent from its mountain source
Down roaring with resistless force.
But who can all thy virtues tell?
Chief of sharp blades, farewell! farewell!"

With few exceptions, the poems commence with a brief dialogue between Patrick and Ossian, after this style:—

"PATRICK.—All hail thou honoured man of age,
E'en, as in years, in wisdom sage,

In frame and spirit strong;
The hues of youth, both fresh and sleek,
Still linger on thy ruddy cheek,
Sweet sapient son of Song.

Of gallant Fenian chiefs to sing,
And laud them on the sounding string,
Thine are the power and will;

Now sing of Finn thy sire renowned,
Thou who art ever courteous found,

Sweet Bard of matchless skill;
And name the conflict most severe
In which he ever lifted spear,
Since fate has spared thee yet to tell:—
Though many and brave thy warriors fell.

" OSSIAN.—O sage whose joy is psaltry sweet,
To these shall I the tale repeat,
And how the strife began:

The direst strife e'er the Fenians knew,
Since first for Finn a sword they drew,

Or formed their martial clan."

Dr. Drummond complains that Macpherson has studiously suppressed all mention of St. Patrick in his poems. His introduction in the 'Irish Minstrelsy' seems to have been as studiously made in order to propitiate the priesthood, of whom the name of Patrick is the representative, as Ossian is of the bards. The clergy were much opposed to the minstrels, and the complimentary prefaces to St. Patrick are often found, like the invocations of classic poetry, at the opening of the lays, with the matter of which there is little connexion. It is curious to observe the representative character of some of the chief personages in the poems, counterparts to whom are found in the primitive heroic song of other countries. Finn is the *beau ideal* of the kingly hero, brave, magnanimous, courteous, hospitable, ready to espouse the cause of the weak, to redress the wrongs of the injured, and to reward the songs of the bards. He is polite and forbearing, to females tender and polite, to his friends and relatives kind and affectionate.

"Gaul, the son of Morni, is an intrepid and successful warrior. It has been remarked that he more resembles Ajax than any other of the Homeric heroes. When the Fenians have suffered defeat from the enemy, and are in danger of being totally overcome, Gaul generally appears in the critical emergency; and, by his superior might and valour, restores the battle and overcomes the foe. Of the

other heroes, one is distinguished by his speed, as Caoilte;—one, as Fergus, by his eloquence and address;—another, as Dermuid, by his admiration of the fair, and who, like the Trojan Paris, carried away the wife of his general, and gave rise to many traditions, still extant, of his adventures when he absconded with his Helen.

"There is one remarkable personage in these lays, who has not received the attention which he merits. This is Conan Maol, or Conan the bald, as generally translated. He has been compared to the Thersites of Homer, to whom, indeed, he bears some resemblance, but he is much more versatile and entertaining, being a strange compound of absurdity, cunning, buffoonery, cruelty, and cowardice, with the occasional semblance of valour, boastful as Falstaff, and sometimes, as he is described in Irish prose romances, as fond of a banquet as was that celebrated worthy of a cup of sack and sugar, and showing, by his actions and sayings, some affinity to the clown of pantomime, and of amphitheatrical equestrian entertainments."

Of the poetical ability displayed by Dr. Drummond in his version of the Lays we have not much to say. There is occasionally a diffuseness, and an over-expansion of the terse though rude original, that weakens the poetic effect. There is also too constant a use of the jingling lyric metre with which Sir Walter Scott first delighted and then wearied the public. Some passages read like travesties of Scott's poetry, such as the following few lines, which are as good as the imitations in the 'Rejected Addresses':—

"Baited by dogs, the porcine brood,
Close gathered in a circle, stood
Like warriors that await the charge
Of coming foes with spear and targe.
Their post the strongest took in front
To bear the conflict's fiercest brunt,
Like chiefs in battle line.
The weaker in the centre, all,
Whene'er they heard their leaders' call,
Prepared the fight to join.
Their wrath they stirred by mutual cries;
Glared, sunk in blood and fire, their eyes,
And while their savage fury burned,
The boiling foam in their jaws they churned.
As still more near we onward prest,
More furious grew their look;
On each ridged back, like warrior's crest,
Their stiffening bristles shook."

As a contribution to Irish archaeology, history, and literature, Dr. Drummond's volume is valuable, and is highly creditable to the author's learning and research. In the arguments, prefaces, and notes accompanying the poems, a great amount of curious illustrative matter is collected from a variety of literary sources.

NOTICES.

A Few Words in answer to the Attack on my 'Classical School Books,' published in 'Fraser's Magazine.' By the Rev. Thomas Kerchever Arnold, M.A. Rivingtons.

This is a controversy between two learned Thebans, in which the public generally will take no very lively interest; and yet it is important even for the public that popular works of education should be good as well as successful. The writer in 'Fraser's Magazine' is evidently "well up" in his subject, and is a hard hitter. We are, however, of opinion that he would have gained his end as well, or even better, had his attack upon Mr. Kerchever Arnold been less directly personal. "Sufflaminandus erat," as Cesar said of a grammarian of his time; his wrath and his contempt both need a drag-chain. Yet we hold that the Fraserian critic, whatever may be his defects in manner, has made out a very fair case of warning against the reputed excellence of Arnold's School Books and Classics, and against the scholastic accuracy of their editor. Mr. Kerchever Arnold makes but a lame defence against the gravamen of the attack. To most of the charges he begins by recording a denial, but generally in the end admits that he did the thing complained of. He denies, in the first

instance, his obligations to German and American scholars, and yet he closes by confessing that he has edited or adopted their works. He pleads that the aid of his *collaborateurs* in educational works has in all cases been admitted by him; yet he confesses that, with two exceptions, all his works have been edited or compiled by himself, his uncle, or his nephew—"quite a family party," as Brummell said of Byng and his poodles. At any rate, the collection goes under the shelter of his all-absorbing name. He defends his Greek, but he makes no reply to the critic's objections to his Latin philology; and when taxed with intruding even into the province of Hebrew learning, he adds, with extreme *bonhomie*, that he has written sundry pamphlets in defence of the Church, and has done the Establishment some service in abridging Hengstenberg's 'Christology.' Moreover, he seems to have suffered by his pains in defence of orthodoxy, since, in addition to the flood of Manuals for Schools which he has been pouring forth during the last fifteen years, he at one time conducted the 'Theological Critic,' which, it seems, was little read. Mr. Kerchever Arnold has, in his own estimation, helped many a tyro through his early troubles with the learned languages. It may be so, and if he has really done so, he is entitled to all the praise and solid pudding which he acknowledges himself to have earned. But he seems to us to need himself a 'Henry's First English Book,' since, among other breaches of Priscian's head, he is guilty of the following portentous vulgarity (page 9 of 'A Few Words'):—"I never had a key; and in the case of what keys to other works I have either drawn up," &c. No pebble of offence is too small for Mr. Kerchever Arnold's hands. His critic has written—"He is careful in the next page to add an explanation, which obviates in some measure the consequences of this error;" whereupon Mr. Arnold, in a kind of paralytic sarcasm (p. 21), observes:—"In the next page!—as if pages diminish in value in arithmetical progression; and as if an author could calculate on what page any given portion of his work would stand!" No one but a gentleman so multifariously employed as Mr. Kerchever Arnold could mistake the critic's meaning—viz., that he had hastened to mend his blunder. We have no wish to sift Mr. Kerchever Arnold's reply any further. Every dispassionate reader of the article in 'Fraser,' and of Mr. Arnold's rejoinder, will discern, without our help, that the assailant is a ripe and good, though somewhat pugnacious scholar; and that the defendant is in the unpleasant predicament of having had his scholastic person punched full of deadly holes by one cunning in fence. Mr. Kerchever Arnold has to thank himself if the learned world regard him as a monopolist; and the public has reason to be grateful to the Fraserian censor for showing up a series of pretentious works, which have only been useful in so far as they have been well compiled, edited, or borrowed.

Tangible Typography; or, How the Blind Read. By Edmund C. Johnson. Whitaker.

This volume presents a valuable summary of information as to the various methods in use for the reading of the blind. Of late years wonderful advances have been made in the instruction of those to whom wisdom by the entrance of sight is shut out. Ingenious and benevolent men have invented different modes of reaching the mind through the sense of touch, and much has been done towards the perfecting of tangible typography. It is desirable that some general and comprehensive system should be adopted. Some of those hitherto adopted consist of arbitrary characters, others making use of the ordinary alphabet, with certain modifications. Of the systems of Lucas, Frere, Moon, Braille, and Carton, under the former division; and of Alston, the French alphabetical and the American alphabetical, descriptions and examples, with comments, are given by Mr. Johnson. The author regrets that advantage was not taken of the presence of so many strangers in London in 1851, to arrange a meeting of delegates from several blind schools at home and abroad, to consult as to the best means of establishing a uniform and easy system of typography. At

present the blind who are taught by one set of embossed books are unable to understand those prepared on different principles. It would be easy, with intelligent labour and the results of experience, to form some plan by which a common mode of instruction and communication might be established. Mr. Johnson's work gives a clear statement of the existing state of matters, and will usefully serve to direct attention to the subject. On the whole, Mr. Johnson thinks that alphabetical characters are the best, as the use of arbitrary signs, whether dots or forms, would prevent the blind from receiving the aid of those unacquainted with stenography and symbolism. A combination of Roman capitals with the lower-case type seems most worthy of adoption. A Society has recently been formed in London for Printing and Distributing Books for the Use of the Blind. One object of this Society is to prepare a series of books on the most approved system, at small cost. It is a matter of satisfaction that so many of the blind, under the system of typography already in use, are enabled to read the Sacred Scriptures, but it is desirable that books of general information and entertainment should also be provided. It will be well, however, before proceeding far with this part of the design of the Society, to come to more general understanding respecting the best system of typography. We hope that Mr. Johnson's treatise will increase the public interest in so important a subject.

A Spring in the Canterbury Settlement. By C. Waren Adams, Esq. With Engravings. Longman and Co.

THIS volume appears opportunely, a controversy at the present moment existing as to the real position and prospects of the Canterbury Settlement in New Zealand. The report of an unbiassed and impartial witness is of importance. A long sea voyage, and a bracing climate, having been recommended to Mr. Adams by his medical attendant, a voyage to New Zealand was considered to unite both these requisites, and accordingly he sailed in June, 1851, in the good ship *Canterbury*, for the colony of the same name. In lively style, Mr. Adams relates the circumstances of the voyage, of the arrival at New Zealand, and his impressions of Lyttelton and Christchurch. The latter is the inland town, and the former the port of the Canterbury settlement. An account is also given of excursions to the bush and the plains, with descriptions of the farming, trading, and other occupations of the colonists, and notices of the maories or natives. The details on these subjects will be read with avidity by all who have any interest in the colony. On the general principles of the Canterbury settlement, and its present condition, it is impossible not to receive a most unfavourable impression from Mr. Adams's book. With every inclination to speak well of the experiment, and expressing his hope that all may turn out well eventually, he cannot forbear from speaking with censure of the ruinous crotchetts which have characterised the whole enterprise. To carry out to a distant colony some organized provision for religious order and instruction is praiseworthy and desirable, but the attempt to plant in a new country a miniature of the mediæval ecclesiastical systems of Europe is a scheme unworthy of the age in which we live. The purchaser of every acre of land has paid three times its ordinary value to create an ecclesiastical fund, which receives one pound for every acre of waste land sold, and as thirty-five thousand acres have been sold, the sum now available for church purposes should be 35,000. It appears that only 1,000l. has hitherto been expended in church building, and on the ship *Canterbury* arriving in the colony, Mr. Adams and the passengers were set upon for subscriptions for a church at Lyttelton. As there is at present a public investigation going on as to the affairs of the Canterbury Association, especially with regard to the use of the church funds, it is better not to refer further to this part of Mr. Adams's volume. He only expresses, however, the feeling of all persons of common sense, both at home and in the colony, when he says, after hoping that the colony may soon have sufficient churches and schools, with efficient clergy

and a bishop,—“it may be doubted whether any of the other dignitaries of the Established Church in the old country are requisite, and whether a Dean and Canons, where there is neither a cathedral to keep in repair, nor corporate funds to administer, may not be dispensed with.” Mr. Adams speaks well of the climate and soil of the settlement, and hopefully of its future prospects; but at present the colonists are for the most part living on the capital taken out with them, and few who read this impartial statement will be tempted to emigrate to Canterbury until some alteration is made in the charter of the colony and in the administration of its affairs. Of the agent of the Association at Lyttelton, Mr. Godley, the author speaks with high praise. With labour dear, carriage difficult and expensive, markets far distant, heavy rates, and many other drawbacks, the Canterbury Settlement appears on the whole an ill-conceived and an ill-managed experiment in colonization.

The Glass and the New Crystal Palace. By George Cruikshank. With cuts. Cassell.

THE genius and humour of George Cruikshank do not abate with advancing years, and his warm-hearted benevolence and philanthropy are more active and conspicuous than ever. To the cause of temperance he has lately devoted much of his art and energy, and the present pamphlet is an appeal, of mingled wit and pathos, against the vice of indulging in intoxicating liquors. The official records of our courts prove that the vast bulk of criminal cases are connected with the influence of intemperance. To the same prolific source of evil much of the disease, misery, and pauperism of the country is attributable. It is not surprising, therefore, that an adherent of ‘the Total Abstinence Principle,’ like Mr. Cruikshank, should lend his talents, literary and pictorial, to the advocacy of a cause by which personal suffering and social mischief may be diminished. It shows but small wit to meet designs so humane with anything like ridicule, and those who are disposed to do so will meet their match in the clever caricaturist. The chief discouragement which Temperance Societies meet in this country arise out of the usages and habits of society. But these are not immutable, and the author effectively describes the improvement from the drinking habits of last generation, and the present state of feeling in the United States, where the public sale of intoxicating liquor has been rendered illegal by the enactment of several of the local legislatures. Mr. Cruikshank refers incidentally to various other topics, especially to the opening of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham on Sunday, and blames the clergy for inconsistency in opposing a rational recreation, and at the same time leaving untouched the scenes of drunkenness and riot in the metropolis. On this subject the author’s opinions are worthy of respectful consideration, as he published, so long since as 1833, a work on Sabbath desecration, showing his strong feelings on the question. The woodcuts of this little tract are clever and full of meaning. Mr. Cruikshank is one of the most effective social reformers of the day.

SUMMARY.

A NEW edition of Tennyson’s *Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington* we read with unabated admiration, on account of its densely-packed thought and noble spirit, in spite of the defiance of classical metre and musical order, to the rules and usages of which the present laureate does not consider himself subject. Of the metrical version of *Reynard the Fox*, after the German version of Goethe, with illustrations by J. Wolf, three parts have been issued. The spirit of the original is well sustained, and this will be a capital English version of the celebrated story.

In Murray’s ‘Railway Reading,’ a new number contains the dramatic poem, *The Fall of Jerusalem*, by Dean Milman. Chambers’s *Pocket Miscellany* has reached its fifteenth volume, which contains as instructive and entertaining matter as its predecessors. In the ‘Parlour Library,’ we have *The*

Huguenots, a Tale of the French Protestants, by the prolific Mr. G. P. R. James. The second volume of *Chambers’s Repository of Instructive and Amusing Tracts*, contains eight papers on a variety of subjects, including the Struggle in the Caucasus, Curiosities of Criminal Law, the Pits and the Pitmen, and the Spirit of Dante’s Vision. Miss Catherine Sinclair continues her *Common-Sense Tracts on Popery*. She adduces strange facts and striking arguments, but surely her credulity is imposed upon when she gravely narrates that “his eminentissimo, Cardinal Wiseman, went a tour in state last month, starring it among the provinces. In one great mercantile city he paraded through the streets in a showy carriage-and-four, accompanied by brass bands of music. The procession resembled those with which Francioni sometimes favours the public, and it had immense effect on the Irish beggars. One old woman, in a rapture of admiration, exclaimed, ‘Here comes the King of the Catholics! the clergy must give up their churches to him.’” Can Miss Sinclair allude to the famous Leeds meeting, where Dr. Wiseman amused the public by undertaking to prove that almost all the discoveries of modern science were due to Roman Catholics? In ‘The Traveller’s Library,’ parts thirty-eight and thirty-nine contain the *Memoirs of a Maitre-d’Armes; or, Eighteen Months at St. Petersburg*, by Alexandre Dumas, translated by the Marquis of Ormonde, an amusing sketch of Russian history and politics, life and manners. Under the guise of the notes of a fencing-master, M. Dumas gives an account of the state of Russia at the close of the reign of the Emperor Alexander and the accession of the Emperor Nicholas. In cleverly managed digressions the author introduces stories of Napoleon’s invasion, the retreat from Moscow, the assassination of the Emperor Paul, and other episodes of modern Russian history. The romance of the French *modiste*, and her marriage with the exiled nobleman in Siberia, give interest and unity to the story. Another book of mingled romance and history, *The Flight of the Pigeon; or, A Trip from Paris to Vienna*, by Drapeau Blanc, gives a narrative of a journey in 1848, in which the writer travelled, in company with a German governess, who had been attached to a family belonging to the court of Louis Philippe, and from whom he gained some details relating to the revolution. The notices of Troyes, Dijon, Besançon, Basle, and other places, are well written, and display learning and intelligence in the author; but the book, in its general tone, is somewhat affected, and the occasional exaggerations and roughness of taste, with the over-veneration of antiquity and royalty, give the impression of unpleasant Americanism in style and diction. It is a book, however, of agreeable reading, and the writer assures us that “the chief action and circumstances are real, though of a highly romantic and exciting nature, and affecting the lives and fortunes of those alike elevated by their virtues as by their position in the fluctuating arena of the political stage of France.” A tale, *Raymond Bury*, by Eliza H. Keating, is founded on Thomas Hood’s poem, the ‘Haunted House,’ and will please those who are fond of stories of mystery and excitement. The style is well adapted to the subject of the tale.

In *Notes of the Flood at the Red River in 1852*, by the Bishop of Rupert’s Land, a lively description is given of the hardships and dangers to which the settlers and missionaries were exposed at that season in their remote North American station. The notices of the Indians, and of the educational and religious exertions of the missionaries, will interest those who in this country have exerted themselves for the welfare of the natives of that region. A volume of *Sermons on Passing Seasons and Events*, by Robert Lamb, M.A., Incumbent of St. Paul’s, Manchester, contains plain, earnest, practical discourses, delivered in connexion with particular services or seasons of the Church of England, but adapted in their subjects and spirit to all times or hearers. The style is simple and forcible, and while the author’s learning is apparent, there is no display of pedantry unsuited to his themes.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Armstrong’s (R.) English Composition, Part 1 and 2, 3s. 6d.
Brown’s Greek Classical Literature, new edition, 1 vol., 12s.
Butler’s Junior Ancient Atlas, 8vo, half bound, 4s. 6d.
— Junior Modern Atlas, 8vo, half bound, 4s. 6d.
Carpenter’s (W.) Synonyms, 18mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Chesterfield’s Advice, 24mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
Complete Guide to Ornamental Leather Work, 12mo, 2s. 6d.
Cooke (W.) on Enclosures, 2nd edition, 12mo, boards, 1s.
Corrigan’s (D. W.) Lectures on Fever, post 8vo, 4s. 6d.
Cowie’s Bookbinder’s Manual, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Creasy’s Battles, 4th edition, 8vo, cloth, 1s.
Cullen’s Isthmus of Darien, 8vo, cloth, 1s.
D’Aubigné’s Reformation, Vols. 3 and 4, 8vo, 12s. each.
Douglas on Military Bridges, new edition, 8vo, £1. 1s.
Flugel’s Practical German and English Dictionary, 18s.
Francis’s Chemical Experiments, 8vo, cloth, 6s.
Electrical Experiments, 8vo, cloth, 4s.
Chemistry, 12mo, cloth, 4s.
Dictionary of the Arts and Sciences, 8vo, 10s.
Dictionary of Receipts, 8vo, cloth, 8s.
Trade and Commerce, 8vo, cloth, 8s.
Gould’s Humming Birds, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 5s.
Grey’s (Earl) Colonial Policy, 2 vols. 8vo, cloth, £1. 8s.
Hengstenberg on the Lord’s Day, 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Howard’s Burning of the World, &c., facs., 8vo, 2s. 6d.
Hughes’s (E.) School Atlas of Geography, 8vo, 10s. 6d.
Hunt’s Panthea, 2nd edition, 8vo, cloth, 6s.
— Poetry of Science, 2nd edition, 8vo, cloth, 8s.
Jackson’s Sermons Preached in Village Churches, 7s. 6d.
Kelly’s Hymns on Scripture, 7th edition, 32mo, 3s. 6d.
Life by the Fireside, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 6s.
Lumley’s Law of Parochial Settlements, 12mo, 6s. 6d.
McLeod’s (W.) Atlas of Scripture Geography, 8vo, 7s.
Mackintosh’s (C.) Book of the Garden, Vol. 1, £2. 10s.
Mure’s Critical History of Ancient Greece, Vol. 4, 15s.
Nelly Armstrong, 3 vols. post 8vo, £2. 1s.
Norman’s Treatise on Law of Patents, post 8vo, 7s. 6d.
Papers for the Schoolmaster, Vol. 2, 1852, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Parisian Sights and French Principles, post 8vo, 3s. 6d.
Peep into Uncle Tom’s Cabin, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Penrose’s (Rev. C. F.) Demosthenes, 2nd edition, 12mo, 4s.
Pulszky’s White, Red, and Black, 3 vols., £1. 1s. 6d.
Shoeder & Medlock’s Book of Nature, Physical Sciences, 5s. 6d.
— Natural Sciences, 5s. 6d.
— Complete, p. 8vo, 10s. 6d.
Smith’s (A.) Poems, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
Sowerby’s Conchological Manual, new edition, 8vo, 18s.
Stories of Youth and Childhood, 3rd edition, 18mo, 2s.
Taylor’s Memorials of the English Martyrs, square 8vo, 1s.
Warburton’s History of Conquest of Canada, new ed., 15s.
Wetherell’s Queechey, new edition, 2 vols. crown 8vo, 12s.
White Slave, by Hildreth, Illustrated, 8vo, cloth, 4s.
William Jackman, the Australian Captive, post 8vo, 7s. 6d.
Wogan on the Proper Lessons, new edition, 2 vols., 16s.
Wordsworth’s (C.) Ecclesiastical Biography, 4 vols., £2. 14s.
Young’s Introduction to Algebra, new edition, 12mo, 3s.
— Introduction to Mensuration, new edition, 3s.
— Night Thoughts, new edition, 12mo, cloth, 6s.

DEATH OF LEOPOLD VON BUCH.

16, Bolgrave Square, March 9.

HAVING received a letter last night from Baron von Humboldt, giving an account of the decease of my eminent friend, Leopold von Buch, I enclose you a copy of it, in the hope that this brief but touching sketch of the relations which subsisted, during sixty-three years, between the great geologist we have lost, and the illustrious veteran who survives, will find a place in your columns.

RODERICK MURCHISON.

Berlin, le 4 Mars.

“Suis-je destiné, moi vieillard de 83 ans, de vous annoncer, cher Chevalier, la plus affligeante des nouvelles que je pourrais vous donner — à vous pour lequel M. de Buch professait une si tendre amitié, à ce grand nombre d’admirateurs de son génie, de ses immenses travaux, de son noble caractère! Léopold de Buch nous a été enlevé ce matin par un fièvre *typhoïde*, d’un accès si violent, que la maladie n’a pas été grave que pendant deux jours. Il avait encore été chez moi le 26, venant à pied malgré les neiges et malgré la distance que nous sépare, causant géologie avec le plus vif intérêt. Le soir il avait fréquenté la Société, et la dimanche et lundi (27 et 28), il se plaignait de sa santé. C’était d’un accès fiévreux, qu’il croyait causé par une grosse tumeur d’engelure, qui faisait souffrir depuis plusieurs années. L’inflammation exigeait l’application de saignées, les douleurs et la fièvre augmentaient. Il a perdu la parole depuis 36 heures, de fortes suffocations l’ont achevé. Il est mort entouré de ses amis, dont le plus grand nombre n’a pas même connu le danger de sa position que depuis mercredi soir 2 de Mars. Une amitié de 63 ans nous a liée; amitié qui n’a jamais été troublée. Je l’ai trouvé en 1791 dans la maison de Werner à Freiberg, lorsque j’entrai dans l’Ecole de Mines. Nous avons été ensemble

N° 18

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en Italie, en Suisse, en France, quatre mois dans le Salzbourg. Ce n'était pas seulement une des grandes illustrations de notre époque, c'était aussi une âme noble et belle!! Il a laissé une trace lumineuse partout où il a passé. Lui pourraient se vanter d'avoir le plus étendu les limites de la science géologique, toujours en contact avec la nature même. Ma douleur est profonde. Sans lui je ne crois bien isolé; je le consultai comme un maître, et son affection (comme celle de Gay Lussac et d'Arago, qui étoient ses amis aussi) m'a soutenu dans mes travaux. Il avait quatre ans de moins que moi et rien nous annonçait ce malheur. Ce n'est pas quelques heures après une telle perte que je puis vous en dire d'avantage. Plaignez moi, et agréez, mon excellent ami, l'hommage de mon profond respect et de mon dévouement le plus affectueux.

AL. HUMBOLDT.

« Et mon pauvre compatriote Overweg en Afrique. Quel bonheur de connaître un jour par l'astronome M. Vogel l'état magnétique de l'intérieur d'un vaste continent! »

Baron Leopold von Buch, whose death is so feelingly announced in the above letter from the illustrious Humboldt, was one of the most eminent men of science of the age. His name, however, great though it must ever stand in the records of science, and honoured as it was and is by all investigators of nature, was probably not popularly known in England. Of eminent social position, very ancient and distinguished lineage, and holding a high office at the Court of the King of Prussia, he was enabled through his influence to render numerous services to science and scientific men. He expended large sums in the same good cause, and was in the habit of printing and illustrating his original memoirs for private gratuitous distribution. This he did from the purest motives, and with no taint of ostentation, from which, indeed, he was singularly free. A remarkable instance was the publication of his large geological map of Germany and the neighbouring regions, at great cost and labour, without any indication of the name of the author. He was a great traveller, even to his latest years, and explored on foot a considerable portion of Europe. As a geologist he held the very highest rank, and, beyond any other, was universal in his geological knowledge. His appreciation of the physical and natural history departments of geology was equal, and his labours in both equally remarkable. One of his most celebrated works is his 'Physical Description of the Canary Islands,' published in 1825. In this valuable volume, he gave to the world his views respecting the volcanic phenomena of all parts of the earth. One of his favourite subjects was the investigation of the phenomena of the metamorphism of rocks. Not until the latter half of his life did he take up the palaeontological inquiries that have conferred as brilliant a lustre on his name as his physical researches did. Directing his attention to the relations of the forms of fossils to their sequence in time, he discovered and developed the laws of the conformation of the sutures of *Ammonites*, and demonstrated within that extensive and important genus the existence of a series of typical groups, each characteristic of a certain range of strata. Following up these views, he proved the manifestation of similar phenomena by the numerous forms of *Brachiopoda*. His memoir on the *Cystidea*, also, is a model of philosophical treatment. In all, he published nearly a hundred works and memoirs, every one of which had the merit of being an advance in knowledge. He wrote with singular clearness and conciseness. In person Baron von Buch was rather short; his countenance beamed with intelligence, and his manners and address whilst occasionally marked by slight eccentricities were kind and considerate in the highest degree wherever he perceived merit. We believe that he was never married. He was a member of almost every learned society in the world.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.

SOME progress has at length been made towards the settlement of the copyright question with the United States of America. The draught of a treaty was prepared by the late Daniel Webster, as Secretary of State, shortly before his death. This draught, having been approved by Mr. Crompton, the British minister, was sent to England for consideration by the Government. To the general provisions of the treaty no objections were offered, and the subject was again referred to Mr. Crompton and to Mr. Everett, the successor of Daniel Webster. From Mr. Everett, as a man of letters, and one intimately acquainted with the state of feeling on both sides of the Atlantic, we expected that everything would be done for the furtherance of a cause affecting equally the honour and interest of both countries. Under the new administration of General Pierce we hope that no adverse influence may come into operation. It seems that the ratification of the senate is now all that is required to convert the proposed treaty into a law. According to the 'New York Herald,' the provisions are similar to those of the copyright treaty executed between France and England a year ago. Books, dramatic works, music, drawings, lithographs, engravings, and other works of art, published and "copyrighted" in the United States, will, *ipso facto*, enjoy all the protection and privileges of English copyright in Great Britain, and in like manner British copyright will possess the same legal authority in the United States as an entry in the clerk's office of the district court, pursuant to an act of Congress. American works must be registered at Stationers' Hall in London, and copies deposited in the libraries to which English books have to be sent; while those published in England, to be copyright in America, must be registered at Washington, and copies deposited at the institutions appointed by law to receive them.

The copyright of a translation of a work in a foreign language will, on compliance with these regulations, enjoy the same right in both countries as an original work. Reproduction of articles in periodicals may be prohibited by notifying that the author or publisher reserves the property. The general fairness of the provisions of the treaty will commend them to approval; but the tardy recognition of the principles of literary equity hitherto by the American public leads us to refrain from any expressions of congratulation on the subject until the announced treaty is actually transformed into an international law. In Putnam's 'Monthly Magazine' for the present month, an editorial article expresses doubt as to the measure being immediately passed, but hopes that "if the treaty be not consummated some action will be had in reference to it, which will give the representatives of the people an opportunity to discuss it freely, and on broad national grounds." The editor thinks that, "if the question of international copyright were submitted to the vote of the people, they would decide in favour of the measure by a vote of two to one." Some very strong remarks are made as to the dishonesty and disgrace of the present "plundering system." "The national character," it is said, "is involved, if, while we refuse to allow compensation to the foreign author for his books, on the plea that we cannot afford to pay for them, and are unable to produce similar ones ourselves, we acknowledge ourselves paupers and vassals to foreign intellect, and give the lie to all our boastings of equality with England." The editorial expression of feeling in the prospect of a treaty is so nationally characteristic in its spirit and phraseology that we present it to our readers. "We confess, that in the prospect of so glorious a consummation, we feel disposed to elect ourselves the representatives of universal authorship, and throw up our hats, with a three times three, that will make the Alleghanies and the Rocky Mountains vocal with echoes. As any treaty will, however, have to pass the ordeal of the senate, we shall wait to see whether our enthusiasm will be obliged to explode in vehement plaudits or not." Other American journals enter fully into the subject. The line of

comment taken by the 'New York Herald' is highly amusing, and in some points perfectly just. According to the writer in that newspaper, America has hitherto been the injured party by the absence of copyright. "It is notorious," it is said, "that we have hitherto been swamped by English books. The price of literary matter has not been sufficiently remunerative to enable authors to live. When Jeffrey, Alison, and Hood could be had for nothing, he was a bold man who would pay Emerson, Bancroft, or Holmes for their manuscript. The consequence has been, that men who would have reflected honour on their country, have been compelled to fritter away their genius in the routine of trade. In after years, when, perchance, American authors will stand as high in England as English authors do here, the historian of literature will point to the year 1853 as the real date when the English language began to be written with more purity and more force on this than on the other side of the Atlantic." We respond to this, so far as to hope that the time may soon come, when in all books written in the English tongue, there may appear nothing to indicate from internal evidence to which nation the author belongs, and that the grandiloquence and coarseness which now mark most American compositions may disappear, just as our home provincialisms of style have been rapidly merging in the general progress of our literature. We scarcely anticipate any public results of so grand importance as those indicated by the American journals. The copyright question is one chiefly affecting the interests of authors and publishers. Incidentally there are points of national honour and public advantage affected, but the legislation is mainly for the purpose of affording encouragement to literary labour, and protection to literary property, alike in both countries.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

We are happy to announce that a pension of 1000/- a year has been granted to Mr. Jerdan, editor of this Journal from its commencement in 1817 to the close of 1850, in consideration of his literary labours. Although we have thought it right to repel the unwarrantable attacks made by Mr. Jerdan on the profession of letters, and been thus driven to state the facts which have been the cause of his personal misfortunes, we are not the less sensible of his claim to literary sympathy. The award of a pension under such circumstances supplies a crowning proof of the consideration which literary position and connexion have procured for Mr. Jerdan, although to this profession he attributes all his calamities.

A party of gentlemen, chiefly literary and scientific, of Liverpool, met on Tuesday, to celebrate the centenary of the birthday of their eminent townsman, Roscoe. After a preliminary breakfast, presided over by the Earl of Sefton, the chairman called upon William Rathbone, Esq., to pronounce an *éloge* upon the historian. Mr. Rathbone said that he was one of the very few left, who not only by inheritance, but by personal knowledge, loved and venerated him, the centenary of whose birth they had that day met to commemorate. Born of respectable parents, Roscoe was the son of a market-gardener, and commenced the happiest period of his life by dutiful aid to his father in his employment; but even then his thoughts were raised to higher objects. He early sought and found friends with congenial aspirations, with whom, to their mutual honour, friendships were formed which lasted through life. Roscoe commenced his career by asserting the liberty of the slave, and closing life as he began, his unabated zeal on the subject of prison discipline brought on the paralytic attack which closed his active life. An address, which assumed the form of a literary biography, was then delivered by Dr. Hume, in acknowledgment of which Mr. William Caldwell Roscoe, a grandson of the poet, addressed the meeting. The mayor, Samuel Holme, Esq., and others, also spoke on the occasion. In conjunction with the other proceedings of the day,

the Derby Museum, consisting of stuffed birds, and a large number of skins prepared for stuffing, collected by that eminent patron of natural history, the late Earl of Derby, was opened by the Mayor and Town-council. As soon as the Derby Museum had been opened, a large party assembled at the theatre of the Royal Institution, to hear an address from Joseph B. Yates, Esq., who said that "Roscoe's world-wide celebrity procured for him the friendship, not only of his townsmen, but of many at a distance, who were eminent for their rank, talents and influence, and who, on closer acquaintance, venerated him no less for the modest and Christian virtues of the man, than for the accomplishments of the scholar." The press from which the first edition of his "Life of Lorenzo de Medici" was printed, was placed in the vestibule of the Institution. A *soirée* at the Town-hall terminated the proceedings. The principal feature in the evening's entertainment was the "Exhibition Room." Here, in addition to a collection of ancient MSS., zoological and botanical specimens, architectural and mechanical models, &c., a numerous collection of mementoes of Roscoe's life and works was exhibited, of which James Boardman, Esq., was the largest proprietor. Amongst other MSS. was an autograph letter of Roscoe to Mr. Boardman, when the latter gentleman was in Messina, on the subject of the authenticity of his celebrated picture of *Leo the Tenth*, by Andrea del Sarto, now one of the chief attractions in the gallery of the Earl of Leicester, at Holkham. Unlike many other great men, whose birthplace is unknown, their life a mystery, and their death obscure, Roscoe was essentially local; and several models and sketches were exhibited of the "old bowling-green house," Hope-street, Liverpool, where he was born, and the house in Lodge-lane, in the outskirts of the town, where he died.

We learn that the Rev. J. W. Koelle, of the Church Missionary Society of England, has just returned from Sierra Leone, where he has made extensive investigations into the African languages. There are a great number of liberated negroes at that place, from whom he has collected a comparative vocabulary of the languages of no less than 190 different countries, from almost every part of Africa, which will contain upwards of 100 distinct languages. Besides that, he has written a grammar of the Vei language, and one of the highly developed and most interesting Bornu language, which, together with the Fellah, constitute the most important languages of Central Africa. The Bornu grammar, it is believed, will throw a new light on the character of the African languages. We believe that these results, which constitute the most comprehensive fund of philological information of that continent as yet collected, are to be forthwith published, with a new ethnological map, showing the localities of the various countries, a great proportion of which have hitherto been unknown even by name. These researches will prove of considerable importance, especially at the present moment, when Central Africa is exciting so much attention.

At the last Court of Common Council a resolution was unanimously adopted in favour of establishing a Free Library and Free Circulating Library in the City of London. The matter was referred to the Library Committee of the Council, with instructions to consider and report as to the best means for carrying the resolution into effect, and also as to whether any portion of the present City Library can be made available for the purpose. A public meeting is to be called at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor at an early period. In several of the metropolitan districts similar movements for social improvement and popular instruction have been successfully carried out. The Marylebone Free Library is in process of organization, and the City of Westminster Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institute, has been established under distinguished and influential patronage. For a festival in aid of the funds of the latter institution, the list of stewards includes the Speaker of the House of Commons, the members for Westminster, Sir De Lacy Evans and Sir John Shelley,

the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Vice-Chancellor, Sir W. Page Wood, Lord Robert Grosvenor, Mr. Peto, M.P., and many of the chief residents and the clergy of the district. The results of recent experiments at Manchester, Liverpool, and other towns, give every encouragement to such undertakings.

An important classical work is about to be issued from the Cambridge University Press, "The Orations of Hyperides for Lycophron and for Euxenippus," now first printed in fac-simile from the manuscript obtained at Western Thebes in 1847, with an account of its discovery, by Joseph Ardee, Esq., F.S.A. In the "Literary Gazette," of June 7, 1851, the earliest public announcement of the discovery was made, with a description of this rare and valuable manuscript. Other details have since been published by Mr. John Hogg, and by Mr. S. Birch, in the "Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature," (Vol. IV., N. S., Part II.). The name of Hyperides as an orator was high among the ancients, but his works were long lost to the world. The papyrus MS. containing these orations is evidently a portion of the roll discovered at the same place at the same time by Mr. Harris, on which fragments of the oration of Hyperides against Demosthenes were preserved. One of the orations, that for Euxenippus, is perfect, and is one of the valuable relics of antiquity which recent researches have revealed. The expense of printing and executing the fac-simile has been great, and the proprietor does not intend to issue the work till at least a hundred copies are subscribed for. The number requires only about twenty names to be completed, and the Syndics of the University Press have handsomely contributed towards the publication expenses, so that the work may now be expected soon to appear. It is carefully edited, with notes and illustrations, by the Rev. Churchill Babington, M.A., F.L.S., editor of the fragments of the oration of Hyperides against Demosthenes.

It is not generally known that the merit of the original invention of the motive power of heated air, as applied in Ericsson's Caloric Engine, is due to Dr. Robert Stirling, a clergyman of the church of Scotland. Dr. Thomas Aitkin, lecturer on Natural Philosophy, has published a letter, in which he states that so long ago as 1825 he delivered a lecture at the Liverpool Royal Institution, "On Heated Air as Motive Power," the subject being illustrated by a working model of "Stirling's Air Engine." This model the lecturer had from Ayrshire expressly for this lecture. Dr. Aitkin also states that the model of Dr. Stirling's Air Engine unaccountably disappeared from the Royal Institution, and ten years afterwards was mysteriously restored, nothing having been ascertained as to its removal, or by whom it was sent back. The model is described under the title of "Stirling's Air Engine" in the syllabus of Dr. Aitkin's "Lectures," printed for the Royal Institution, Liverpool, in 1825. It is right to add that Mr. Ericsson himself has not claimed the invention as his own, and he deserves honourable distinction for his indefatigable exertions in applying the principle to navigation. At the recent dinner given to the American minister at Birmingham, Mr. Ingersoll had the candour to state publicly that the invention was due to the Rev. Dr. Stirling. Several engines were put up at the time in Dundee and other places, on the heated air principle, but the subject was allowed to drop, and the invention did not come into general use. We have not seen it noticed in the recent newspaper accounts of Mr. Ericsson's American experiments; but we remember, somewhere about twenty years ago, a vessel on the Thames, the *Vesta*, we believe, on the caloric principle, and under charge of Mr. Ericsson, the trials of which excited considerable attention at the time, but the frequent failures did not then lead to sanguine hopes as to the practical utility of the project. We are happy to find that there is a prospect of Mr. Ericsson's perseverance and ingenuity being at length rewarded with better success in America.

Dr. Gervinus, the eminent historian, has just been tried by the Criminal Court of Mannheim, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, on the charge of high

treason, for having published his "Introduction to the History of the Nineteenth Century." The trial has ended by his acquittal of that charge, but by his conviction on the lesser one of exciting to sedition, and by his condemnation in consequence to ten months' imprisonment. This prosecution will remain a monument of the intense stupidity which prevails in certain parts of the world, in the very midst of this boasted age of enlightenment. As Dr. Gervinus stated in his defence, his "book contains only historical facts; there is nothing in it which resembles an appeal or exhortation to revolt," and yet he is prosecuted for treason, and condemned for sedition, because, forsooth, the tendency of the facts he relates, as of all history, is, as he said, "favourable to the principle of self-government, that is to say, the participation of the greater instead of the smaller number in the work of government," and is, in truth, as he added, "ordained by Divine Providence, who does not cease to watch over the march and the development of mankind." The Doctor demonstrated the absurdity of prosecuting him, by showing that nothing can prevent the people of these days from understanding and pondering on the truths of history, or prevent history itself from progressing in its natural order of development. And with great manliness he declared that, though condemned, he would continue to write. "My studies as an historian," said he, "have absorbed my life. I obeyed my vocation in writing this book, and I could not change my vocation if I would, nor would if I could."

By the recent discussions in both Houses of Parliament on the Clergy Reserves in Canada, much light has been thrown on the great question of national education, especially as connected with religious instruction. The true principles of this difficult and much agitated subject have been ably enunciated in the leading articles of "The Times" in reviewing these parliamentary debates. It is well shown that "the voluntary principle is the only one that can be appealed to with success in a new country," and that "if there is one thing more than another which a people will do for themselves it is the payment of their clergy, and the maintenance of their religious establishments." The relations of church and state render part of this argument inapplicable in our own country, so far as existing establishments are concerned. But in any schemes for extending and increasing religious education, dependence must be placed on the resources of voluntary zeal and liberality. The debates on Maynooth College prove that the retention even of existing endowments is precarious, and the increase of them is rendered hopeless by the religious divisions and animosities too prevalent. The friends of education must therefore depend on their own exertions mainly, and it is well that Government is still willing to step in with aid supplementary to local or denominational funds. This is the principle on which assistance to schools of all denominations is so liberally granted by the Educational Committee of the Privy Council. Even in cases not capable of receiving Government aid, exertions are being made for creating voluntary funds for extending education. On the same principle the Irish Roman Catholics are at present projecting a college for the education of their clergy at Paris, it being proposed to raise 100,000*l.* by contributions of 100*l.* each from a thousand members of that church. A few years ago, in the comparatively poor country of Scotland, 20,000*l.* was raised, by twenty subscribers of 1000*l.* each, for building the New College at Edinburgh, where the clergy of the Free Church are educated. The payment of professors, support of the library, and current expenses, are met by an annual collection in the churches connected with that religious denomination. The success of the New College is a gratifying and encouraging fact in the history of education in this country.

The great scheme of uniting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans by a ship canal through the Isthmus of Darien, has been brought forward in the British parliament, and there is little doubt now of the accomplishment of the long projected design. In reply to a question of Mr. Hume, Lord John Russell declared the

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readiness of the British government to co-operate with America in the arrangements necessary for carrying into effect an undertaking so important to the commerce of all nations. The recent discussions on the engineering and commercial details of the rival Darien routes have increased the public interest in the question. A new and enlarged edition of Dr. Cullen's work on the 'Isthmus of Darien' has just been published, which contains the most copious and recent information on the whole subject.

The first number of 'The London Mail,' a newspaper specially prepared for circulation in India, has this week been published. It is edited by John Lang, Esq., who established, and for several years with much ability conducted, the well-known Indian paper, 'The Mofussilite.' The first number bears marks of over-hurried preparation, but allowance must be made for various contingencies always attendant upon the starting of a new paper. The plan of 'The London Mail' is good, and Mr. Lang's experience in India will give him great advantages in adapting his materials to the requirements of Eastern readers. For instance, it often happens that discussions in parliament, which the daily papers scarcely consider worth any detailed report, refer to questions which in India excite far greater interest than the grand debates which fill the columns of the London press. A short conversation in the House of Commons, touching the furlough regulations, is far more greedily devoured than the most eloquent speeches and exciting intelligence on home or continental affairs. 'The London Mail' will give special attention to all matters likely to be most interesting to Europeans in the East. The commercial and exchange department of the paper is personally superintended by the proprietor, who is conversant with the peculiar features of intelligence expected under this head. The importance and variety of the contents presented in the first number promise well for the energy and ability with which the paper will be conducted. It will be published once a fortnight, in time for the departure of each overland Indian Mail.

Dr. Layard has proceeded to Constantinople along with Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, the British Ambassador, his assistance at the Embassy having been requested as likely to be of service in the present critical state of affairs in the East. At the last Court of Common Council, the freedom of the City of London was presented to Dr. Layard, in a gold box of the value of 100/. These are gratifying and honourable marks of distinction paid to one who combines eminence in the literary world with qualifications which render his political services of importance to his country.

Further accounts have been received by the French government of the explorations of an Assyrian palace making under the direction of M. Place at Khorsabad. His last discoveries were a double colonnade with a flag pavement; and now he reports that he has, by more extensive excavations, brought to light a wall twenty-one feet long and five feet high, in painted bricks, in a fine state of preservation, representing men, animals, and trees. This, he says, is the first complete specimen preserved in its place of Assyrian painting; and it proves, he alleges, the exactitude of the descriptions given of the palaces of the Assyrian kings by Cæsarius and Diodorus. He reports also that he has discovered the statue of a man, four and a half feet high, holding a bottle in his hands. It is in marble, similar to the *basso relieves* previously found. M. Place fancies that the wall belonged to a passage leading to a large hall, and thinks it likely that it contained other statues. He announces that he has made other discoveries also, but as he does not detail them, they are probably of less importance.

Some of our scientific readers may remember that at the meetings of the German Association for the Advancement of Science, at Aix-la-Chapelle, and again at Wiesbaden, there was discussed a plan for a thorough exploration of the basin of the Rhine—its geology, botany, and zoology. We are glad to announce that this plan is about to be carried out, and that it is effectually supported by the

'Pollichia,' a Bavarian Natural-History Society. On the 28th of this month a meeting will be held at Ludwigshafen, to which all those who may be interested in the matter are invited, and where the steps immediately to be taken are to be considered. It is to be regretted that a more favourable season has not been selected for the time of the meeting, as many of our tourists, some of whom have exhibited no slight knowledge of the Rhine and its neighbourhood, might 'drop in.' Nevertheless, we hope that a project so desirable and worthy of imitation will receive all the support which it so richly deserves.

Professor Ayton, of the University of Edinburgh, the author of the 'Lays of the Scottish Cavaliers,' and known to many more from his connexion with 'Blackwood's Magazine,' is about to deliver a course of public lectures in Edinburgh, 'On the Nature, Forms, and Development of Poetry.' Such a course from one well versed both in ancient and modern literature, and himself a poet of considerable eminence, will not fail to be interesting and instructive.

The Duchies of Anhalt Bernburg and Anhalt Dessau have acceded to the treaty between Great Britain and Prussia for the protection of literary property.

Byron's fair and loved Countess de Guiccioli has become a senator of France,—her husband, the Marquis de Boissy, having been just nominated to the Imperial Senate.

Professor James Nicol, of Queen's College, Cork, has been appointed to the chair of Natural History in the Marischal College, Aberdeen, in room of the late Professor William Macgillivray.

The obituary of the week contains the names of Mr. Frederick Shoberl, author of various works of minor importance, and of Mr. N. T. Sporle, ballad composer.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

ANTIQUARIES.—*March 3rd.*—The Viscount Mahon, President, in the chair. His Royal Highness the Prince of Syracuse, whose courtesy and attention to English travellers has been recently experienced by our countrymen during the excavations at Cumæ, was elected a Royal Member of the Society. Mr. Thomas Thorby, Mr. Sheriff Carter, Mr. W. Harvey, and Mr. J. C. Robinson, were elected Fellows. Sir Henry Ellis exhibited an impression in gutta percha from the original seal and counter-seal of the city of Carlisle, the workmanship of a date probably as early as the thirteenth century. On one side is the figure of the Virgin and child, who holds a *fleur-de-lis* in the right hand: legend—*S. COMMUNIS CIVIVM KARLIOLENSIS, AVE MARIA GRACIA PLENA* in the inner circle. This seal is in a very extraordinary state of preservation. Dr. Lukis then resumed his paper 'On the Celtic Megaliths,' of the features of which he gave a general view on Thursday last, Feb. 24th. He drew attention to the fact that these structures were to be recognised by certain distinct and almost invariable characters, independently of their massive constituent parts. A knowledge of these characters rendered it comparatively easy to trace a decline in the architecture, which evidently was the consequence of the introduction and free use of metallic instruments. But beyond this it enabled us to detect those modifications which occasionally present themselves in structures of apparently the same date. The Celtic sepulchres have very frequently a fixed position with reference to the cardinal points; for instance, the cromlechs in Guernsey have their long diameters invariably east and west, and the capstones consequently in an opposite direction. The cists, on the contrary, have their capstones east and west. The peristaliths, also, have an entrance at the east, which is to be observed very universally. These latter interesting structures have attracted attention from very remote ages, but their use has only recently been determined. That they are sepulchral there cannot be a doubt, and that they have been used for this purpose by single families and by clans. A large stone is frequently laid over the

remains, but not always occupying the centre. The examination of these should always be conducted with the view of separating the more recent or medieval accidental deposits from those of more ancient date. It becomes most important, therefore, to adopt this simple manner of proceeding. The grass turf being removed, the soil immediately beneath should be sifted to the depth of some inches, which will possibly bring to light some relics of comparatively recent periods, and then a vertical section may be made through the prænæval bed down to the original soil, and the section will expose the edge and situation of the deposit, its thickness may be ascertained, and it may be explored throughout its whole extent. By this manner of proceeding alone can such results be obtained as may lead to sound and useful information. To these structures the term "bardic circle" has been applied, possibly with justice; for it is not improbable that the heroic deeds of the valiant may have been recited or sung on these their graves, and the custom continued long after they had become lost to memory or tradition. In the decline of the architecture of the period may be detected the gradual introduction and use of metallic instruments, in the hewn condition of the stones, and the essential differences between stones hewn with stones alone, and those minute and more delicate engravings which could only have been effected on granite by means of brass or iron. The original characters are still in a measure retained, but the essential features are changed, as also the size of the investing tumulus, being on the increase, while that of the stone structure is in the inverse ratio. It is to be observed, that the "barrow" is not characteristic of the Celtic period nor people. There are still some very interesting points to be considered, by which it is demonstrable that a period of continued tranquillity enabled the cromlech-builders to make certain additions to their tombs. One mode was by the addition of successive dolmens to the original structure; these are invariably placed to the eastward, and are found in no instance to exceed the limits of the peristalith. But when room was yet further required, it was gained by constructing lateral cists, which were also invariably joined to this newer portion. Sometimes, but rarely, they communicate with the larger lengthened chamber. These remarkable additions are observable in the instructive cromlech 'Dehus' in Guernsey. Singularly enough, but readily explicable, these additional cists were formed within the chamber itself. In Jersey, a recently discovered cromlech presents five of these enclosed cists. After this period the peristalith was abandoned, and the successive dolmens were continued to a very great length, as in the very perfect example of Gavr' Innis, Morbihan; but even here the succession may be distinctly traced by the transverse lying blocks. The original structure was a cist covered with one stone, with a floor of the same, and only between seven and eight feet square. The tumulus over this was high and conical; and as the additions were made so did the tumulus follow them, but not raised to the same height as the first. The extraordinary idiographic engravings cover the inner surfaces of the stones of the sides, the floor, the divisional transverse blocks, and the smaller stones which are wedged between the props. The concentric and herring-bone patterns resemble the tattooing of the New Zealander. The stone cels is frequently repeated, sometimes surrounded with a sort of glory or ring. But of all the stones, the most remarkable is on the western side, which has a deep depression divided in front by two equi-distant pillars. These being convex and protruding from the stone, lead to the belief that the whole of the surface was purposely depressed. The same is observed in the cromlech called the Dol-ar-Marchant, the design here being in relief. The stones in some instances appear to have received their engraving before the construction of the cromlech, for the scored work is continued along the surface in contact with the next, or with the cap-stone. Patterns closely resembling these are found in other cromlechs, and a "rubbing" taken from the

top of a prop in a cromlech at Dyffryn, between Barmouth and Harlech, Wales, shows a design precisely similar. The interior of the more recent tumular chamber, at New Grange, Ireland, is somewhat analogous. The modes of interment were, by placing the bones in little detached heaps, and surrounding these with circles of smooth flat pebbles. These circles were three or four feet in diameter, and the accompanying urns varied in capacity, in their forms, and the patterns or devices upon their surfaces. They were not found to contain the remains at any time, excepting such as may have accidentally fallen into them: nor were they always set upright. The largest of the urns might have held four or five gallons, and the smallest only as many fluid ounces. The bones were both burnt and unburnt; several cromlechs had no traces of burnt bones within them. They lay upon a rude pavement of fragments of granite, and in the large cromlech at L'Ancresse had a second pavement over them, on which lay similar deposits. The bones and urns were in many instances secreted between and behind the props, thrust deeply into the bank of earth which was raised against the outside of the structure. The personal ornaments consisted of beads of stone and of clay. Some few were of bone. There were also bone pins of various sizes in all the cromlechs. The cromlechs contained also stone millers, querns or troughs for grinding. One of these, in the large cromlech above mentioned, found with the burnt bones, had likewise been subjected to the action of fire, and was cracked throughout. Dr. Lukis, at the request of the President, consented to remain in town another week, for the purpose of concluding his memoir on Thursday evening next.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—Feb. 23rd.—T. J. Pettigrew, F.R.S., F.S.A., V.P., in the chair. Six new Associates were announced, and presents received from Mr. C. Roach Smith, M. Deschamps des Pays, Rev. E. Koll, and Mr. Tucker. Mr. Hobler exhibited a deed of feoffment of the time of John, in a very perfect state, with seal attached. Mr. Tucker exhibited three others of an early period, which were referred for examination. Mr. Lynch forwarded a piece of ancient needlework, said to have belonged to Mary Queen of Scots. Nearly the entire evening was taken up by the reading of an elaborate paper by Mr. George Vere Irving on the 'Ancient Camps in the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire.' A paper by Mr. Just on the 'Roman Roads and Camps in the North West of England,' published in the last volume of the Journal of the Association, had led him to direct his attention to the remains of the same class in the intramural province of Valentia. The subject presented more difficulties in this northern district than in the southern parts of the island. Not one of the eminent antiquaries who had treated of it agreed with the others on the general direction of the sites, far less on the site of particular stations. Mr. Irving had no intention of promulgating fresh theories when so many great authorities were at fault; the task which he had undertaken was a much humbler one. Mr. Just had well observed that the lock was on the ground, if we could find the key to it. Mr. Irving therefore proposed to give an accurate description of that part of it which related to a district with which he was connected, and thus, to a certain extent, facilitate the construction of the general key. He conceived that the proper course to do this was by describing all the camps and fortifications of the district, and not confining the attention to those which alone might be alleged to be of Roman construction. For the sake of convenience, he would follow the course of the Roman Roads which traversed the Upper Ward, and describe each individual camp as it was consecutively met with, without meaning to ascribe to it any particular origin. Two undoubted Roman Roads are met with in the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire. The first of these, which has been described by General Roy, leaves Carlisle and proceeds northward up the Valley of the Annan to Drybby Church, where it splits into two branches. These re-unite in the head of Lanarkshire, near the old castle of Crawford, from

which point the road continues down the right bank of the Clyde by Culter Bygar and Liberton. It then passes the well-known Roman Camps of Carstairs and Cleghorn, and proceeds to Belstone in the parish of Carlisle, where it enters the Middle Ward and joins the great reticulation of roads connected with the Northern Wall. The second, which does not appear to have been previously noticed, runs nearly at right angles to the other. Leaving the upper part of Ayrshire, it crosses a corner of Dumfriesshire, and then proceeds along the high ground between the Clyde and its tributary the Douglas Water, to near their conflux, when it tends to the right, cutting off a remarkable loop of the former, which it crosses a little above the station at Carstairs. From this point it leads eastward, but soon splits into three branches, one leading to Edinburgh, the second to Linton, and the third to the Roman station at Lyne, in Peeblesshire. Along these routes Mr. Irving has found above 40 camps, and exhibited carefully prepared plans of each, at the same time describing the military capabilities of the sites, especially in connexion with that prime necessary, a supply of water. In many of these fortifications this essential point had been overlooked or neglected. In others it was provided for by springs situated within the ramparts, while in a few an artificial supply was provided for by the construction of wells. Mr. Irving also enumerated the various reliques of antiquity—armlets, urns, and bronzes, which have been found in these camps, and in every instance, where practicable, exhibited accurate drawings of them. The Chairman announced that the annual meeting was postponed from the 9th of March to the 13th of April, to complete the arrangements for the Congress in August, the evening of the 9th was therefore devoted to the ordinary business of the Association.

ASTRONOMICAL.—Jan. 14th.—J. C. Adams, Esq., President, in the chair.—'On the Variable Stars *S Cancri* and *Algol*,' by Professor Argelander ('Ast. Nach.' No. 845). M. Argelander has recently been devoting attention to the star *S Cancri*, which has been found to undergo periodical fluctuations of brightness analogous to those which distinguish the well-known variable star *Algol*. On the 19th of December, 1852, he perceived the star when its light was very faint. The interposition of clouds prevented him from observing the precise instant of minimum brightness, and when the sky again cleared up, the light of the star had already sensibly increased. He is of opinion, however, that the period of variation as ascertained by him, viz., nine days, eleven hours, thirty-seven minutes, cannot differ more than two minutes from the true value. All his observations of the star since February 16th, 1850, agree very well with this determination; but he has not yet succeeded in observing an exact minimum. As the star affords a visible minimum only every nineteen days, there is little hope of a single individual accomplishing much by means of such observations, and it were therefore desirable that other astronomers should direct their attention to this remarkable object. A five-foot Fraunhofer, or even a four-foot instrument with a dark sky, will suffice for this purpose, and the star is easy to find by means of its situation with respect to *Presepe* and *δ Cancri*. The following are the positions of the star, and also those of the stars of comparison for the mean equinoxes of 1800 and 1850:—

	1800.				1850.			
	R.A.	Decl.	R.A.	Decl.	R.A.	Decl.	R.A.	Decl.
	h. m. s.	°	h. m. s.	°	h. m. s.	°	h. m. s.	°
Var. <i>S.</i>	8 32 30	+ 19 44	8 35 22	+ 19 34				
8 to 8 9 <i>a</i>	34 20	+ 19 46	37 12	+ 19 36				
9 <i>b</i>	31 40	+ 19 46	34 32	+ 19 36				
8 <i>d</i>	30 44	+ 19 38	33 36	+ 19 28				
10 <i>e</i>	34 15	+ 19 35	37 7	+ 19 25				

The variable star, and also *a* and *b*, are to be found in Bessel's 'Zone,' No. 277. Lalande has observed each of the stars *a* and *d* twice; *e* is estimated by the eye; it forms with *b* and *S* nearly a right-angled isosceles triangle, the right-angle being at *S*. The visible minima for the month of

March are, March 5th, seven hours, March 24th, six hours.

M. Argelander recommends to those astronomers who may be desirous of aiding in such observations, to compare the variable star with either of the standard stars, by bringing them one after the other into the *centre of the field of view*, and not to observe both objects of comparison with the telescope in a fixed position, since the star which stands out from the centre always appears *too bright*. When it attains its minimum, *S* will be very nearly equal in brightness to *e*. M. Argelander remarks, that it begins to increase very rapidly; and he is inclined to suppose that its descent from the maximum is even still more rapid.

2. In compliance with a suggestion of the President, W. R. Grove, Esq., F.R.S., made a verbal communication of some means he had lately employed with success in improving ordinary refracting telescopes. It is known, that in the object-glasses of these instruments the chromatic aberration is, as it is termed, over-corrected, while, practically, the spherical aberration is imperfectly or under-corrected. Mr. Grove had tried many expedients to remedy or abate these defects by some simple plan applicable to existing instruments. If the glasses were separated a slight distance, as recommended by Sir J. Herschel, the chromatic aberration may be corrected, but the spherical aberration is generally increased to such an extent as to greatly deteriorate the performance of the instrument. In some cases where the inner curves of the flint and crown glasses approximate, Mr. Grove had employed with success a highly-refracting cement, made of very clear resin and castor-oil, which, acting as a third lens or convex meniscus of a medium dispersing the coloured spaces differently from the other two lenses, corrected to a very great degree the chromatic without increasing the spherical aberration. This compound forms an excellent tough cement; it is nearly, and may be made absolutely, colourless, and might possibly be used in small telescopes instead of a flint-glass. With telescopes in which the curves would not admit of a cement he had tried lenses of plate-glass, placed at opposite distances between the object and eyeglasses of the telescope; this plan he conceived was applicable to by far the greater number of common telescopes, and much improved their performance. It differs from the plans of Littrow, Rogers, or Barlow, in consisting of a *convex* lens, and in being applicable, at a very trifling expense, to telescopes constructed in the ordinary way. Mr. Grove had tried various curvatures and distances of this interposed lens, but as his experiments were made for amusement, and with no notion of publication, he had not noted the details. The following was the best result he had obtained: In a five-foot four-inch telescope, having a clear aperture of 3 1/2 inches, a small plane convex lens of plate-glass, of six-feet focus, was placed, at a distance of one foot from the eye-glass, with the plane side towards the eye; the diameter of this lens need not be more than an inch, and it can generally be attached with ease to the inner extremity of the sliding eye-tube. This had produced so beneficial a result that a mediocre instrument had been changed into a very good one,—showing, for instance, the inner ring of Saturn, defining beautifully the division in the main ring, and dividing double stars well up to a second of space. The effect of such a lens is three-fold:—1st, it brings back the over-correction of the object-glass; 2ndly, being of a glass acting somewhat differently on the coloured spaces, it causes them to overlap, and gives a greater residuum of white light; and, 3rdly, upon the principle of the Huyghenian eye-piece, it lessens the spherical aberration by receiving the more refrangible at a less oblique incidence than the less refrangible rays. It will be obvious, that the nearer the interposed lens is to the object-glass the less should its curvature be, but in proportion as the object-glass is approached the difficulty of centering and defects in curvature become more felt; if, again, the interposed lens be brought very near the eye-glass, less effect upon the aberrations is produced. Practi-

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ally, lenses having foci somewhat greater than the object-glass, and placed at a distance from the eye-glass of from one-fourth to one-fifth of the focal length of the object-glass, will be found to answer; and the effect being one of degree, no mathematical accuracy in the amount of curvature is required.

3. *Westphal's Comet* (II. 1852).—This comet has finally disappeared from the observations of astronomers. It was first discovered by Dr. Westphal, at Göttingen, on the 24th of July, 1852 ('Ast. Nach.', No. 819, p. 43). In all probability, the last observation of it was one which was made by Sig. Secchi, at Rome, on the 30th December following. A great number of observations of this interesting object will be found in Nos. 820-847 of the 'Astronomische Nachrichten.' Elliptic elements have been calculated by Sonntag, which assign to it a period of 60·8 years ('Ast. Nach.', No. 836, p. 321). M. Marth, of the Königsberg Observatory, from observations separated by a wider interval, has deduced elements indicative of a period of 58·35 years ('Ast. Nach.', No. 839, p. 379). A more accurate set of elements will doubtless be obtained by a discussion of the totality of the observations. Some remarks on the physical appearance of the comet by M. Reslhuber of Kremsmünster, and M. Fearnley of Christiania, will be found in Nos. 846-7 of the 'Astronomische Nachrichten.' The former of these observers, in a note relative to its appearance on the 26th of August, states that the tail had a decided resemblance to a fan. On the 11th of October Mr. Fearnley perceived a short ray of light, about 1' in length, issuing from the nucleus in the direction of the tail. It is worthy of remark, that this singular appearance was witnessed on the same night by Mr. Hind, at the observatory of Mr. Bishop, Regent's-park ('Astr. Nach.', No. 839, p. 371). It may be mentioned also, that phenomena of the same nature were perceived by Kepler in the great comet of 1618 ('De Cometis,' p. 103), and by Sir John Herschel in Halley's Comet ('Ast. Obs. at the Cape of Good Hope,' p. 396). The comet at one time was distinctly visible to the naked eye. It was so seen by M. Reslhuber on the 7th of October. It ceased to be generally visible even in telescopes before the middle of December. Only one observation of a later date exists, so far as is hitherto known, viz., the observation by Sig. Secchi already referred to.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—*Feb. 23rd.*—Major-General Sir Charles Pasley, K.C.B., Vice-President, in the chair. A paper 'On Uniform Weights, Measures, and Monies,' by Professor Jack, of King's College, Fredericton, New Brunswick, was read. After a brief sketch of the history of the weights and measures used in different countries, but more especially in England, the author pointed out the arbitrary and uncertain nature of the original standards, and alluded to the joint labours of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris, and the Royal Society of London in 1742, and of the Committee of the House of Commons in 1758 and 1760, when a rod made by Mr. Bird was declared to be the legal standard by which all measures of length were to be adjusted. This standard, with several others, was destroyed by the fire which consumed the two Houses of Parliament in 1834; and, as yet, the steps by which, according to the act of Parliament, they "shall and may be restored," incase of such a casualty, have never been taken. The author then proceeded to describe the steps taken in France to obtain fixed and unchangeable standards of weights and measures, quoting at some length the important Report of the French Institute of 1798; and the similar attempts made by Great Britain, especially the well-known Commission appointed by Government in 1818, for the purpose of forming new standards of weights and measures, or of determining the relations of those already in use to some unchangeable standard existing in nature. Both these attempts had been altogether unsuccessful. The chief desiderata in a good system of weights and measures, and how far it would be possible to secure them for a system already in

operation in a great country, were next considered. For these purposes it had been admitted on all hands that the decimal scale was preferable to every other, inasmuch as with it all numerical computations would be comprehended in the four common rules of arithmetic. It was felt that the primary units of an existing metrical system, more especially those used in the ordinary transactions of trade and commerce, ought on no account to be altered; and even in the multiples and subdivisions of these units no changes ought to be attempted but such as, when assisted by a general sense of their manifest advantages, the authority of the Government would enforce the adoption of. Professor Jack then examined the tables of weights and measures in detail, beginning with money, as that was directly or indirectly the basis of all kinds of traffic, and therefore an essential element in all calculations; and it had been stated, in the Report of the Commissioners made in 1841, that no circumstance would contribute so much to the introduction of a perfect scale of the weights and measures as the establishment of decimal coinage. In the money table he proposed that the pound should be divided into 1000 parts, instead of 900, as at present, and that the term *mil* in place of *farthing* should be used for each of these parts or pieces. Ten of these pieces should be equal to a *centime*, ten centimes equal to one decime, and ten decimes equal to a pound. This would involve the introduction of two new coins, the milline and centime, as the decime was already provided for by the present florin. With respect to other subdivisions of the pound, the half-sovereign and the crown would be retained, as being in accordance with the binary system, which to a certain extent has always been found most convenient in the retail trade. For the same reason the shilling and sixpence might remain as the half and quarter of the decime (or florin), though it would perhaps be better that the latter, on account of the name, should be withdrawn and replaced by a silver coin of the value of two centimes—the farthing and the penny being nearly equal to the milline, and the half-centime might continue to circulate for them, until new coins of the value of one, two, and four millines respectively could be issued. A copper or mixed coin of the value of five millines would also be found useful, and would probably render the issuing of the milline coin unnecessary. In regard to the tables of weights, the irregularity according to which the division proceeded, and the having the same names attached to weights of different magnitudes, were the source of much confusion, perplexity, and fraud. With a view in some measure to remedy these serious and glaring defects, the Report of 1841 recommended the use of the troy weight should be declared illegal except for transactions in gold, silver, and precious stones, and that the avoirdupois pound should be adopted as the standard weight of the kingdom. To procure as far as was thought possible the benefits of the decimal scale, it also recommended the suppression of the stone and hundred weight, and the substitution for them of weights of 10 pounds and 100 pounds respectively. These recommendations might safely be extended by directing that all weights taken at the Mint should be expressed in troy weight grains; and jewellers, physicians, and apothecaries would have no difficulty in reducing the different weights employed by them to the same denomination. In avoirdupois weight the pound is the most important unit, and in any alteration it at least should remain intact, but its lower denominations are of very little consequence. If the same sub-multiple of the pound that the pound is of the stone be taken, and then divide decimally, a weight equal to half a grain will be arrived at, and thus it will be possible to preserve and connect together in one table all that is most valuable in both troy and avoirdupois weight, and also at the same time introduce in a great degree the decimal scale. The extreme inconvenience and absurdity of the "fluid measure" used by apothecaries was next pointed out, and a modified table suggested as a more practical and convenient system of measurement. In regard

to the table of long measure, it was stated that it was well known that surveyors and engineers worked by the foot and its decimal divisions, that in foot-rules and scales, the decimal now generally accompanied the duodecimal divisions; and in philosophical instruments and in the record of scientific experiments, the former had now almost entirely superseded the latter. Under these circumstances the foot was recommended as the basis of a table, in place of the yard which had been urged in the Report of the Commissioners in 1841. Ten thousand feet might go to make a myre, which would thus be somewhat less, about one nineteenth, than two miles, and between these extremes there might be three other decimal measures, and below the foot three additional ones. It would be admitted by all that whatever tended to simplify the measures of length would also, to the same extent, simplify the measures of surface and solidity. The measures of capacity stood very much in need of reform, and it would conduce to greater accuracy, and afford less opportunity for fraud, if all dry goods, that were now sold either by heaped or stricken measure, were ordered to be sold by weight. Owing to the table of measures of capacity being framed in almost perfect accordance with the binary scale, which seemed the best adapted to the purposes of the retail trade, it would be impolitic and perhaps useless to try to effect a change in the mode of subdivision, more especially as the lower units were readily convertible into decimal parts of the higher. The measurement of angular magnitudes and also of time were then alluded to, and though it was thought that certain alterations might be made which would tend greatly to simplify all calculations, yet, for reasons quite obvious to every one, such alterations could not be advised. In the discussion which ensued, Dr. Booth objected to the introduction of a new nomenclature which, however scientific its basis, persons engaged in commercial pursuits could hardly be expected to make themselves masters of. Though theoretically there could be no doubt that a duodecimal base was the best, on account of its containing a greater number of prime divisions, yet as the decimal system has been so long in operation, and as moreover the introduction at the present moment of the duodecimal system would render necessary two new symbols for ten and eleven, it would be a hopeless task, even if desirable, to attempt so complete a change. He believed that the decimal notation should pervade the whole system, and not partially, as shown by Professor Jack's tables, and in this view he exhibited certain tables which contained as fair and as simple divisions as possible, and in which the present terms were almost entirely preserved. Mr. William Brown, M.P., remarked on the steps that had been taken by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce to promote the introduction of a decimal system of coinage. He did not think it advisable or expedient to ask for universal uniformity in this respect, but that we should merely simplify our own system; and for this purpose he wished that the country should petition the Government to institute an inquiry, with a view to some better and more perfect plan being adopted. Mr. James Yates advocated the adoption of the French system of 1798, which was in almost all respects complete. It was the deliberate result of the serious and grave consideration of very able men who had not confined their investigations to their own country, but had taken advantage of anything which they found suitable in any other. The Chairman alluded to a treatise which had been published by him in the year 1831, on this very subject, and expressed himself gratified to find that the system recommended in that work was gaining in public estimation. There could be no question, he believed, of the great advantage of uniformity in all measures and monies, and that the decimal system tended to increase that uniformity and simplicity so much desired.

CIVIL ENGINEERS.—*March 8th.*—J. M. Rendel, Esq., President, in the chair. The paper read was 'Experimental Investigation of the Principles of Locomotive Boilers,' by Mr. D. K. Clark (Edin-

burgh.) It commenced with some historical facts in locomotive progress, showing that the general design of the locomotive was matured, immediately after the trials on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway in 1829—combining the multitubular horizontal boiler, the horizontal cylinders, and the blast pipe. Reference was made to the various systems practised, in working out the general design, and to the necessity for fixed principles in proportioning the locomotive to the work for which it was destined. For the proper discussion of the question, it was indispensable to distinguish the three elements of the machine:—the boiler, the engine, and the carriage; and to consider them separately, with respect to their proper functions, as the mixing up of one with the other had caused much of the confusion with which many of the recent discussions on the subject had been invested. The paper was chiefly devoted to the discussion of the physiological principles of locomotive boilers. It was argued, that the combustion of coke in the firebox was, in practice, very completely effected; that it was quite independent of the strength of the draft, being equally complete with fast and slow drafts; that expedients for improving the combustion were superfluous; and that the combustion of coal might also, in practice, be perfected by a judicious use of the ashpan, damper, and the fire-door. The evaporation of 12 lbs. of water per pound of pure coke was found, by careful laboratory experiments, to be the maximum evaporative performance; in the best ordinary practice, an actual evaporation of 9 lbs. of water per pound of coke, or 75 per cent. of the possible maximum, was readily obtained, the balance being lost by leakage of air by water; and it was adopted, by the author, as the ordinary standard of practical economical evaporation. It was shown, by numerous examples, that the question of the relative value of firebox and tube surface was of no practical importance, as the efficiency of boilers was not sensibly affected by their relative amounts; that the superiority of firebox surface was due merely to its greater proximity to the fire; and that the distinction of radiant and communicated heat was merely circumstantial, that what was gained in radiant heat was lost in communicated heat, and that whether it was all radiating, or all communicated, mattered not to the total efficiency of the fuel. On these grounds the author regarded with indifference the use of such expedients as extended fireboxes, midfeathers, corrugated plates, and combustion-chambers; and it was asserted, that where the addition of midfeathers had been found advantageous, there had been a deficiency or mal-arrangement of the tube-surface. A minute analysis was made of the results of numerous authenticated experiments on the evaporative power of locomotive boilers, of very various proportions, comprising several, made by the author, on the engines of the Caledonian, Edinburgh and Glasgow, and Glasgow and South Western Railways. It was concluded, that the economical evaporative power of boilers was materially affected by the area of the fire-grate, and by its ratio to the whole heating surface; that an enlargement of the grate had the effect of reducing the economical evaporative power, not necessarily affecting the quality of combustion in any way, but governing the absorbing power of the boiler, as the lower rate of combustion, per foot of grate, due to a larger area, in burning the same total quantity of fuel per hour, was accompanied by a reduced intensity of combustion, and by a less rapid transmission of heat to the water, in consequence of which a greater quantity of unabsorbed heat must escape by the chimney. An increase of heating surface, again, reduced the waste of heat, and promoted economy of fuel, and added greatly to the economical evaporative power. In short, the question resolved itself into the mutual adjustment of three elements:—the necessary rate of evaporation,—the grate-area,—and the heating surface, consistent with the economical generation of steam, at the assumed practical standard rate of 9 lbs. of water per pound of good coke. An investigation of the cases of economical

evaporation, in the Table of Experiments, conducted the Author to the following very important equation, expressing the relation of the three elements of boiler-power: in which c was the maximum economical evaporation, in feet of water, per foot of grate per hour, h was the total heating surface, in square feet, measured inside, and g was the grate-area in square feet:—

$$c = .00222 \frac{h^2}{g}$$

From this it followed: 1st. That the economical evaporative power decreased directly as the area of grate was increased, even while the heating surface remained the same. 2nd. That it increased directly as the square of the heating surface, when the grate remained the same. 3rd. That the necessary heating surface increased, only, as the square-root of the economical evaporative power. 4th. That the heating surface must be increased as the square-root of the grate area, for a given economical evaporative power. It was contended thence, that the heating surface would be economically weakened by an extension of the grate, and would be strengthened by its reduction; and that whereas large grates were commonly thought to be an unmixed good, and being generally recommended were usually adopted; still they might be made too large; not that their extension affected the quality of combustion, but that the economical evaporative power might be reduced. Concentrated and rapid combustion was, alike, the true practice for the largest and the smallest boilers; and in locomotives where lightness, compactness, and efficiency were primary objects, the boilers should be designed for the highest average rates of evaporation, per foot of grate, that might be followed, in good practice, consistently with the highest average rate at which coke could be properly consumed; as, in this manner, the smallest grate, and the smallest amount of heating surface, consistent with good practice, might be employed. It was stated, that 150lbs. to 160lbs. of good sound coke could be consumed, per foot of grate per hour; and, allowing for inferior fuel, an average maximum of 112lbs. per foot of grate, per hour, was recommended as a general datum. This determined the average maximum of economical evaporation to be sixteen feet of water per foot of grate per hour, allowing 9lbs. of water per pound of coke; for which eighty-five feet of heating surface per foot of grate should be provided. It was accordingly recommended, that a heating surface at least eighty-five times the grate-area should be adopted in practice. It was also shown, by examples of inferior economy of evaporation, that the clearance between the tubes, for the circulation of water and steam, was in many boilers much too small; that the clearance should be in proportion to the number of tubes, and that for good practice, a clearance at the rate of one-eighth of an inch for every thirty tubes should be allowed. The author supplied several practical rules, deduced from this examination, and stated his conviction, that the deductions from his experience with locomotive boilers were, in the main, applicable to all other forms of boiler. He applied the rules to several conspicuous examples of locomotive boilers of the present day, and endeavoured to show in what respects they were defective; he also suggested simple means of rectifying them, and of improving their action, and alluded to the long boiler of Stephenson, as affording the best example of combined lightness, compactness, and evaporative power. The author, finally, referred to his practical investigations on the subject of the blastpipe; from these he concluded that, in all practical cases, the blastpipe was susceptible, by a correct adjustment of the details of the boiler, of being made abundantly wide enough, consistently with the demands for steam, to afford a free and sufficient exhaust, at all speeds, so as practically to remove all back pressure by imperfect exhaustion.

After the meeting, Mr. Hulford, of H.M. Dockyard, Woolwich, exhibited an ingenious instrument of his invention, for ascertaining, from an indicator card, the steam pressure on the piston of a steam engine. The indicator card being

placed on the board, so that the atmospheric line coincided with the marks on the retaining springs, the triangular scale was placed at the bottom of the figure, and the side roller made to revolve, until the spiral line on it intersected the edge of the scale, in which position the roller was fixed. The distances between the steam and vacuum lines were taken, by sliding the scale along the figure, and ten or twenty divisions might be taken, according to the degree of accuracy required; the sum of the distances, divided by their number, gave the mean pressure on the piston. A great saving of time, in the measurement of all irregular figures, evidently resulted from the use of the instrument, and its simplicity and low price were also points in its favour.

HORTICULTURAL.—*March 1st.*—Sir Philip de Malpas Grey Egerton, Bart., M.P., in the chair. Mrs. Barchard, the Rev. Lord J. Thynne, D. D. Heath, H. G. Bohn, J. Crowley, Esqrs., and M. Auguste Van Geert, of Ghent, were elected Fellows. Owing to the severity of the weather on this occasion, snow falling thickly all day, few subjects of exhibition were produced. Mr. Barnes, of the Camden Nursery, Camberwell, sent six plants of the charming terrestrial Orchis longicornu, for which a Banksian medal was awarded. When grown in large masses this is truly a handsome plant, and, in addition to its great beauty, it has the merit of being emphatically an Orchis for the million, requiring, as it does, about the same treatment as an *Auricula*. A similar award was also made to Mr. Gaines, of Battersea, for *Camellia Wilderii* (rose), and Mrs. Abbey Wilder (white), two varieties of American origin. Both have small, round, nicely-cupped flowers, which cannot fail to secure their introduction into every collection. A Certificate of Merit was awarded to Mr. Gill, of Westbourne Grove, Bayswater, for a rose-coloured *Pelargonium*, named *Queen of February*. Its flowers are not so finely formed, indeed, as those of the florists' crack varieties; but then their deficiency in this respect is made up by their brightness of colour and profusion.—Messrs. Henderson, of Pine Apple Place, also received a Certificate for an example of the *Sikkim Rhododendron ciliare*, which flowered so freely at Chatsworth and other places last year. It is quite as cultivable as a Chinese *Azalea*, and when grown in little heat the blooms are well coloured; but in the present instance the plant had been kept in a hothouse, and therefore they were paler than they otherwise should have been.—Mr. Young, of Milford, showed three plants of the *Gowen Cypress* (*Cupressus Goveniana*) two bearing quantities of ripe cones, and one in full flower. New Black Hamburg grapes were furnished by Mr. Forbes, gardener to the Duke of Bedford, at Woburn Abbey. They were nice bunches, not large, but beautifully coloured and bloomed, and well deserved the Silver Knightian Medal which was awarded them. Two Pine-apples, a Black *Antigua*, 3 lbs. 5 oz., and a Queen, 2½ lbs., were produced by Mr. Davis, of Oak Hill, East Barnet.—Of Vegetables. Mr. Lewis Solomon, of Covent Garden, sent a collection, consisting of bundles of very good white Asparagus and green "sprew" from Paris, excellent green Peas from Toulouse, Ash-leaved Kidney Potatoes and Horn Carrots from Paris, and Globe Artichokes, not very good, from Avignon. He also contributed Cos and Cabbage Lettuces, Endive, and Radishes, all from the neighbourhood of Paris, and as fresh and fine as could possibly be wished for. A Banksian Medal was awarded.—Some Tea seed, furnished by H. Winch, Esq., of Seacombe, Cheshire, was distributed to such Fellows as wished to receive it. It was stated to have been sent to this country by Dr. Bowring, and that if it came from the north of China (as it was believed it did), the produce would be about as hardy as a *Camellia*.—The Hon. W. F. Strangways again furnished examples of the mild climate of Dorsetshire in the shape of cut specimens of *Primula Palinuri* (which is supposed to be the parent of our garden *Auricula*), the rare *Helleborus abchasicus*, *Euphorbia mellifera*, the

charming shrub we will not raticulate at present botsbury. plants of white, fr red varie a promi floribund some Be a beauti Azalea cut bran lovely ye and the givn av tributed. Plum, a Washi digeoise, and Com sorte are meritis in ascertai Como, a the Socie Duke, v ROYAL meeting were rea the Roc Expedi paper v tary of lector practice private lowing Oregon, underto zealous in Per M.P. t Scottish toh, g active; was br fleet o left the and ze lector) Factor wards one of they re winter lose a started resolv packe Hudson carrie till it sta on the on the of his miles) an av slept the fr on sev 30° f enable 1851, was r large Horn which inter

charming blue *Lithospermum rosmarinifolium* (a shrub well worth a place in a greenhouse when it will not flower out of doors), the fragrant *Iris* *radiculata*, and other interesting plants which are at present in blossom in the open garden at Abbotsbury.—From the Garden of the Society came plants of the fringed white, single white, double white, fringed red, single red, and cut-petalled red varieties of Chinese *Primulas*, *Rogeria Roelzii*, a promising pink-flowered species; *Centradenia floribunda* and *rosea*, *Diosma ambigua*, the handsome *Berberis nepalensis*, not so finely in flower as it was last year, but, nevertheless, showing what a beautiful thing it is; the brilliant early blooming *Azalea obtusa*, some *Heaths* and *Epacries*, and a cut branch of *Acacia Riceana*, covered with its lovely yellow inflorescence.—Cuttings of fruit trees, and the usual packets of garden seeds, annually given away about this time to Fellows, were distributed. The former consisted of Haling's superb *Plum*, an American sort, equal in size to the *Washington*, and of first-rate flavour; *Belle Angevine*, *Monstreuse de Bayav*, or *Reine Hortense*, and *Como Cherries*. The first and second named sorts are said to be large and excellent, but their merits in this country have not yet been sufficiently ascertained. The last comes from the lake of *Como*, and is stated by Mr. Clare, who sent it to the Society, to have "all the richness of the May Duke, with a fine acid," and to be about the size of the *Flemish Cherry*. It has not, however, yet fruited in the garden.

ROYAL PHYSICAL OF EDINBURGH.—At the last meeting of this Society several important papers were read, one of which was 'On some Insects from the Rocky Mountains, received from the Botanical Expedition to Oregon, under Mr. Jeffrey.' The paper was read by Mr. Andrew Murray, the Secretary of the Association by whom the botanical collectors were sent out on that expedition. The practice of sending out collectors by associations of private naturalists is gaining ground, and the following notice of the origin and proceedings of the Oregon expedition gives encouragement to such undertakings. The scheme originated with a zealous arboriculturist, Mr. Patton, of the Cairns, in *Perthshire*; Sir William Gibson Craig, then *M.P.* for *Edinburgh*; Lord Murray, one of the *Scottish Judges*; Professor Balfour; Mr. Mackintosh, gardener to the Duke of Buccleuch, and others, actively promoted the undertaking. The project was broached in November 1849; and by the first fleet of the Hudson's Bay Company's ships which left this country after that, Mr. Jeffrey, a young and zealous botanist (who had been appointed collector), set sail for America. He arrived at *York Factory* in August 1850, and at once pushed westwards for the *Rocky Mountains*. He travelled with one of the Hudson's Bay Company's brigades, till they reached *Cumberland House*, where the brigade wintered. Mr. Jeffrey there found that he would lose a whole season if he remained till the brigade started in spring, and with great energy at once resolved to go on with what is called the winter packet. This packet starts from *York Factory* in Hudson's Bay in the month of December, and is carried by men, on their backs, from post to post, till it reaches the *Rocky Mountains*. Mr. Jeffrey started with this packet from *Cumberland House* on 3rd January 1851, and reached *Jasper's House*, on the *Rocky Mountains*, on 21st March. In one of his letters he says,—"All this distance (1200 miles) I walked on snow shoes, the snow being on an average two feet deep. During this journey I slept with no other covering than that found under the friendly pine for the space of forty-seven nights, on several occasions the thermometer standing from 30° to 40° below zero." Mr. Jeffrey was thus enabled to commence his labours in the spring of 1851, and a portion of the seeds he then collected was received last autumn, in fine condition. The largest part, which was probably sent by *Cape Horn*, has not yet come to hand. Among the seeds which have been received are those of several very interesting trees and plants. There is a beautiful new pine which grows to the height of 150 feet,

and has a circumference of 13½ feet at the base. This first fruit has been rightly named *Abies Pattonii*. There are also two *Piceas*, one of which (supposed to be *Picea lasiocarpa*) grows to the height of 250 feet, and the other (supposed to be new) to the height of 280 feet. When the Association was newly started, it was suggested to the Committee of Management that an addition might be made to its funds by admitting a limited number of entomologists, to receive beetles instead of seeds. In spring and early summer there would be few or no seeds to collect, while that was the very best season for insects; and at other times the collecting of the two might be made compatible, by instructing the collector to make the seeds his principal, and the insects only his subordinate object. The Committee adopted the suggestion, and the allowed number of entomologists immediately came forward. Of the first set of entomological specimens received from Mr. Jeffrey, Mr. Murray gave descriptive notices, and invited members of the Society to enrol themselves as supporters of the future operations of the expedition.

GEOLOGICAL.—*Feb. 23rd.*—Professor E. Forbes, President, in the chair. David Forbes, Esq., Dr. James Bright, and Joachim Otté, Esq., were elected Fellows. The following communications were read:—1. 'On the Structure of the Skin of the *Ichthyosaurus*,' by H. Coles, Esq., F.G.S. In some specimens of *ichthyosaurus*, obtained from the *Lias* of *Tewkesbury*, the author's attention was drawn to the occurrence of a number of minute blackpoints, which, on being submitted to microscopic examination, appeared as small curved hollow spine-like bodies. In other specimens Mr. Coles found a thin layer of these minute bodies confusedly massed together, and lying against the surfaces of different parts of the skeleton. The author draws the conclusion that these small setiform bodies were an important element of the dermal covering of the *Ichthyosaurus*. 2. 'On the Geology of the Vicinity of Quebec,' by Dr. Bigsby, F.G.S. In this paper Dr. Bigsby gave a general view of the geognostical and superficial features of the country ten miles round Quebec, pointing out the abundance of natural sections of the earlier palaeozoic strata (particularly of certain members,—for instance, the *Hudson River group*), which, by their frequency and extent, afford such clear insight into the geology of the district. The general geological structure and succession of strata appear to be similar to that of the United States. The principal features noticed consist of a mountainous country on the north, formed of gneissoid rocks. These are succeeded on the south by *Potsdam* sandstone sparingly developed, and that only in the north-west direction. Following this to the south is a considerable development of *Trenton* limestone, succeeded by conglomerates, sandstones, limestones, and shales of the *Hudson River group*, which occupy for some thousand square miles the great trough of the *St. Lawrence*, on the north flank of which trough Quebec is situated. A hundred miles south of the *St. Lawrence* this trough is bounded by a continuation of the *Green Mountains* of the United States. The strata of the whole district under consideration are much disturbed by the protrusion of granite and trap rocks. A considerable tract north and west of Quebec, drained by the *St. Charles* river, is covered by deposits belonging to the glacial period. The paper comprised detailed descriptions of the mineralogical character of the several deposits and crystalline rocks, and notices of the organic contents of the fossiliferous strata.

ZOOLOGICAL.—*March 8th.*—Dr. Gray, V.P., in the chair. The Secretary read a letter which had been addressed to Dr. Gray by Mr. Osswell, respecting the discovery of a rhinoceros by himself and Captain Vardon, in the country about the river *Limpopo*, which they at the time considered to be a new species, as it probably is. The horns of this animal, brought home by Colonel Steele, and about to be presented by him to the British Museum, were exhibited to the meeting. Their peculiarity consists in the forward direction of the

lower horn, the end of which was evidently worn away by contact with the ground in feeding. In a note attached to Mr. Osswell's letter, Dr. Gray stated that Colonel Steele had also brought home the horns of a new species of *Tragelaphus*, allied to *T. eryceros* and *angasi*. He proposes to name it *Tragelaphus nakong*. Dr. Crisp exhibited a skin of a Hornbill, of which the neck-feathers were covered with the eggs of an apparently new species of *Acaris*. Dr. Crisp observed that the eggs of *acari* are always deposited beyond the reach of the beak in birds. Both eggs and perfect insects were exhibited under the microscope, and the subject was further illustrated by elaborate drawings. Dr. Crisp afterwards read a paper 'On the Habits and Anatomy of the Wolf-fish,' containing, among other interesting information, a careful explanation of its dental system, and of the intestinal canal. Mr. Gould exhibited and described the nest and eggs of *Menura Alberti*, from specimens transmitted to this country by Mr. Willcox, of Sydney. The structure of the nest fully corroborated the views which Mr. Gould had developed many years since as to the position of *Menura* among the inessorial birds, in contradistinction to those of Temminck, Illiger, Swainson, and Lesson. The *Menura*, according to Mr. Willcox, only lays one egg, but on that point there exists some doubt. The egg of the old species, *Menura superba*, is still unknown. The Secretary read a note on the capture of *Delphinus orca*, in South Greenland, by Mr. Rehiller, of Thorhavnen, which was communicated by Sir Walter Trevelyan, to whom it was addressed. It contained the description of a method of capturing these animals with a net, which had proved so successful that the number taken in Westmanharn alone since 1843 (when the net was first used) amounted to 2200, whereas between 1843 and 1819, 250 only had been secured. As each animal is taken to average 30 gallons of oil, this branch of industry has produced upwards of 400000. sterling to the inhabitants of Westmanharn in the last ten years.

NUMISMATIC.—*Feb. 24th.*—Lord Londesborough, President, in the chair. Mr. Roach Smith gave an account of the discovery of a collection of Saxon weights in a cemetery at Ozilden, in Kent. With them were found some swords and other weapons, some sceattae, a coin of Justinian, probably struck in France in imitation of the genuine pieces of that Emperor, and a pair of scales, evidently from their small size intended to weigh money with. The weights have all been carefully weighed; but it has not been found possible to discover any common multiple of them. They are themselves manufactured from Roman coins, the earliest being one of Faustina, and the latest one of Gratian or Valens. Mr. J. G. Pfister read a paper on an 'Undated Gold Coin of Florence struck in 1805, and called Il Zecchino di San Zenobio.' The type of this curious coin is that of the well-known Zecchins (or sequins) of Venice, and in the rude execution of its figures has a great resemblance to the Zecchins of Lodovico Manni, the last Doge of Venice, A.D. 1780-1797. It represents on one side the figure of San Zenobio kneeling at the feet of our Saviour, and on the other that of St. John the Baptist within an aureole. Mr. Pfister learned, when at Florence in 1847, that this coin was struck at the solicitation of Cesare Lampronti, banker of the city of Florence, on the 24th of August, 1805. A certain quantity of such Zecchins was ordered to be struck for the purpose of serving a commercial speculation in the Levant, and, at the same time, to be called Zenobini. The existence of a similar coin in the collection of M. De Reichel, at St. Petersburg, is noticed in his Catalogue, vol. ix. p. 466. It is not, however, explained by him. Mr. Vaux, in a short paper, called attention to two works lately published, which he considered to contain valuable numismatic information; the first, the Catalogue of the collection of Don José García de la Torre, by M. Gaillard, which was sold at Madrid during the last spring; and the second, an account of a small collection, presented to the Royal Historical Society of Madrid, by Don

Antonio Lopez de Cordoba, which has been drawn up and published in Spanish by Don Antonio Delgado.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—*March 7th.*—At a General Monthly Meeting, held this day, Sir C. Fellows, V.P., in the chair, De Burgh Birch, M.D.; George T. Brooking, Esq.; Ernst William Browning, Esq.; James Bruce, Esq.; Alexander Duncan, Esq.; Peter Halkett, Esq., R.N.; Charles Seale Hayne, Esq.; Effingham Calvert Laurence, Esq.; J. Line, Esq.; Alexander Mitchell, Esq.; The Count Montizon; Miss Ellen Matilda Pickersgill; Mrs. Wm. Pole; George Ridley, Esq.; Charles Turner Simpson, Esq., M.A.; Basil Wood Smith, Esq.; Charles William Stokes, Esq.; John Newman Tweedy, Esq.; James Vallance, Esq.; William Foster White, Esq.; and Alexander Williamson, were duly elected Members. The Secretary reported the proceedings of the Friday evening Meetings on February 11, 18, 25, and March 4; when the thanks of the Members were voted to Dr. Tyndall, Professor G. G. Stokes, John Wilson, Esq., and Edward A. Freeman, Esq., for their discourses on those evenings. It was also announced that after the Easter vacation courses of Lectures would be delivered by Drs. Faraday, Frankland, and Tyndall, and Mr. W. Carpenter.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Royal Institution, 4 p.m.—(Dr. A. W. Hoffmann, on Organic Chemistry.)
 — Geographical, 8½ p.m.—(Captain Robert Fitzroy, R.N., F.R.S., on the Great Isthmus of Central America—illustrated by Arrowsmith.)
 — London Institution, 7 p.m.—(C. V. Walker, Esq., on Electric Telegraphs.)
 — School of Mines.—(Natural History, 1 p.m.)—(Mining, 3 p.m.)

Tuesday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Thomas Wharton Jones, Esq., F.R.S., on Animal Physiology.)
 — Linnean, 8 p.m.
 — Horticultural, 3 p.m.—(Hybrid Rhododendrons, one pot only to be shown by each Exhibitor; Strawberries in pots, in threes; the best and most varied Salad.)
 — Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(Discussion on Mr. D. K. Clark's Experimental Investigation of the Principle of Locomotive Boilers.)
 — Pathological, 8 p.m.
 — School of Mines.—(Chemistry, 11 a.m.)—(Mineralogy, 1 p.m.)—(Geology, 3 p.m.)

Wednesday.—Royal Institution, 4 p.m.—(Dr. A. W. Hoffmann, on Organic Chemistry.)
 — Society of Arts, 8 p.m.
 — London Institution, 7 p.m.—(Soirée, Dr. John Tyndall, F.R.S., on the Transmission of Heat through Bodies.)
 — Ethnological Society, 8½ p.m.—(Dr. Freund, on Dr. Donaldson's Solution of the Etruscan Problem.)
 — School of Mines.—(Metallurgy, 11 a.m.)—(Mineralogy, 1 p.m.)—(Mining, 3 p.m.)

Thursday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(John Phillips, Esq., F.R.S., on the General Principles of Geology.)
 — Royal, 8½ p.m.
 — Antiquaries, 8 p.m.
 — Numismatic, 7 p.m.
 — Harveian, 8 p.m.
 — Department of Practical Art, 8 p.m.—(Dr. Lyon Playfair, on the Chemistry of Pottery.)
 — School of Mines.—(Chemistry, 11 a.m.)—(Mineralogy, 1 p.m.)—(Geology, 3 p.m.)

Friday.—Royal Institution, 8½ p.m.—(Sir C. Lyell, on the Remains of Reptiles and of a Land Shell, recently found in the Interior of an Erect Fossil Tree, in the Coal Measures of Nova Scotia.)
 — School of Mines.—(Metallurgy, 11 a.m.)—(Natural History, 1 p.m.)—(Mining, 3 p.m.)

Saturday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Professor Williamson, on the Philosophy of Chemistry.)
 — Medical, 8 p.m.
 — Asiatic, 8½ p.m.—(Dr. R. G. Latham, on the Classification and Distribution of the Languages of the Trans-Gangetic Peninsula.)

FINE ARTS.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

On Tuesday evening a motion was agreed to in the House of Commons for a Select Committee "to inquire into the management of the National Gallery, and to consider in what mode the collective monuments of antiquity and fine art possessed by the nation may be most securely preserved, judiciously augmented, and advantageously exhibited to the public." The time was

spoken of as being peculiarly ripe for parliamentary inquiry, and from the readiness with which the motion was responded to by the Government, we are led to believe that this long talked-of subject is really about to take some practical and definite form. The plan suggested by us last year (L. G., 1852, p. 642) of associating the art collections and antiquities of the British Museum, including the sculptures, prints, coins, &c., along with our national pictures, is beginning to be received with favour, and, it is understood, will be brought fully before the Committee. The British Museum wants room, and the new National Gallery will want collections. The productions of art may be exhibited in one institution, and those of nature in the other. "The National Gallery," remarked Mr. Ewart, "should comprise, not pictures only, but works of antiquity, casts, and a variety of other specimens, indispensable to the cultivation of the fine arts, and the want of which is a disgrace to the country." "Whether it would be possible," said Lord John Russell, "considering the various titles under which our various collections of fine art monuments were held, at the British Museum, for example, and elsewhere, to combine them, if considered desirable, into one great collection, I am not prepared to say. This is one of the important subjects the Committee will have to investigate."

On the subject of the Management of the National Gallery, it will be sufficient for the present to refer to a document which has just been printed, by order of the House of Commons, being "Minutes of the Trustees" from the 5th February, 1847, to the 1st November, 1852. We have not space to quote any of these in their official preamble, nor would our readers thank us for introducing them in that form, but will give a brief analysis of their contents.

Presents.

Of the presents accepted, the Vernon Gallery, of course, forms the principal item, but as the particulars of these minutes were amply published at the time, it is unnecessary here to reproduce them. Great difficulties attended the accepting of this costly gallery of pictures, for want of space, and all sorts of applications were made to the Treasury for assistance. First, the donor was subjected to the intrusion of the public in his private house; then the collection was transferred to the National Gallery cellar; and lastly, it was removed to Marlborough House, to await the erection of a new National Gallery. Complaints were made during this time of some of the pictures getting damaged; a formal remonstrance was thereupon offered by Mr. Vernon's executors, and in two instances the Trustees were forced to admit that such was the case. All these things are now, however, matters of history. In July, 1849, two large and valuable pictures by Gaspar Poussin were offered as presents by Mr. Pusey of Farringdon, Berkshire. The Trustees replied, "that their available space is so limited that they could not undertake to place them in the rooms to which the public is admitted." Their great value was unquestionable, and a place was offered for them in the private Board Room of the Trustees, when the donor, relying probably on the chance of their being exhibited in some future Gallery, generously acceded to this proposition. In 1850, Messrs. Graves and Co. liberally presented a portrait, painted by Gilbert Stuart, of John Hall, the engraver, and Mr. William Woodburn, in July last, presented a valuable drawing, in pen and sepia, by Giulio Romano, representing a *Female Saint brought before the Tribunal of a Pro-consul*. Lord Overstone, at the same time, presented a fresco painting by the same master, representing *The Assumption of the Magdalen*, formerly in the Trinita da Monte. Among the numerous presents declined for want of merit, and, it may be, in some instances, for want of space, we note the extraordinary offer from Thomas Wilson, Esq., of a model of the Great Victoria Pyramid, designed for the centre of a national necropolis. It was estimated "to contain five million millions of coffins," and to suffice, doubtless, for the purposes of burial to the end of the world, when the

last man would have to mount to the summit and deposit himself on the apex.

Bequests.

The most remarkable item to be noticed under this head is a reversionary bequest of 10,000*stock*, made to the nation for the use of the National Gallery in 1849, by the late T. D. Lewis, Esq., son of the eminent comedian of that name, accompanied by a portrait of his father. The Trustees acceded, however, to a request of Miss Lewis, sister of the testator, to retain possession of it during her life. In April, 1851, the executors of the late William Westall, A.R.A., communicated a bequest made by that painter of a picture by him of *The Deluge*, which was accepted; and a fine picture by Backhuysen—*View on the Texel during a Stiff Breeze and Rolling Sea*—was bequeathed in the same year by C. A. Bredel, Esq. Lastly, at the beginning of last year, came the welcome announcement that the great landscape-painter, J. M. W. Turner, had bequeathed a collection of his finest works to the nation, two of which, as may now be seen in the Gallery, the testator bequeathed on condition that they be hung by the side of Claude's landscapes.

Purchases.

The only purchases made during the six years to which these minutes refer, appear to be a picture by John van Eyck, from Viscount Middleton's collection, 365*l.*; the *Tribute Money*, by Titian, 260*l.*; and the *Marriage of St. Catherine*, by Palma Vecchio; these last two being purchased at the sale of Marshal Soult's collection. For the great Murillo, purchased by the French Government for 23,440*l.*, and for which the Emperor of Russia bid 23,400*l.*, and the Marquis of Herford, 23,200*l.*, the British Government sanctioned an expenditure of 700*l.* The most important offer to purchase was that of the Manfrin collection at Venice. Mr. UWins and Mr. William Woodburn were commissioned, in 1851, at an expense of some four or five hundred pounds, to go and examine it. They selected 120 pictures, as being, in their opinion, admissible in the British National Gallery, and agreed upon the valuation of them at 23,340*l.* It was, however, resolved, "that in the present state of the information in possession of the Trustees, they do not find themselves in a condition to recommend any negotiation for the purchase," and Messrs. UWins and Woodburn were apprised that it was not necessary for them to remain any longer in Venice. Several other fine pictures were brought under the notice of the Trustees at different times, but declined, because "the Trustees do not find themselves in a condition to enter into negotiation."

Improvements.

Everything appears to have been done that could be done towards furnishing an improved Sculpture Gallery for the Royal Academy. Plans and earnest entreaties were from time to time submitted by the Trustees to the Lords of the Treasury, and letters were written to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests that such applications had been some time before that body, when in 1848 a reply was made by Lord Aberdeen to the effect that nothing could be done towards altering the National Gallery without the sanction of Parliament, and the subject was dropped.

Another subject, to which considerable attention has been given, has been the protection of the pictures with plate glass. The late Sir Robert Peel took great pains to procure the evidence of competent judges, and a Committee of Inquiry was appointed to examine the question. Opinions were, however, rather conflicting; and among those opposed to the use of glass was that of an eminent authority—Professor Bassine, of Petersburg, who had had twenty-five years' experience on the subject of the preservation of pictures of old masters in several galleries of Europe. "The care bestowed upon pictures," says the Professor, "by covering them with glass changes them, perhaps, more than it preserves them, but insensibly. The air contained between the picture and the glass

becomes cracks and wards to in favour caused the gin, Infected, and it v. Committee the pictu ful dust, any, has In close notice the ness that Trustees and a no. the min. of their 8s. a w. House, the Trust sanction poorly, by the Right E. Mecheque porary e. the Ked to

Compar tured Europe. This was tectural occasion. Essay p. cept is more fu the treat that lit feeling styles t. Ruskin under w. ment, a of opinio sense, first is of variou various was ex fixed in ornamen and la original to say, ing and admire cannot present. plate. Plated tured a final elments in these e. in this no amo no powe which absence with lit for arti genius, even has

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becomes heated, dries the colours, and produces cracks in the varnish, which are transmitted afterwards to the colours." There were opinions equally in favour of glazing the pictures, and the Trustees caused the large picture by F. Francia, *The Virgin, Infant Saviour, with several Saints*, to be protected. Nothing further was done in this matter, and it will doubtless be revived before the new Committee of Inquiry. On the subject of cleaning the pictures we have spoken already. Mr. Seguer has been appointed to look after their careful dusting and preservation, and little harm, if any, has been done in this respect at present.

In closing these remarks, it may be as well to notice the frivolous character of some of the business that is brought officially before the Board of Trustees. A Mr. Greenwood loses his umbrella, and a note from the Trustees is duly recorded in the minutes, signed by Lord Ashburton, expressive of their official regret. A housemaid is wanted at 8s. a week to clean the rooms at Marlborough House, and a note is forthwith required through the Trustees, from the Lords of the Treasury, to sanction the engagement. The stoker is taken poorly, and we have an official minute, confirmed by the Most Noble the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Right Hon. Lord Colborne, the Right Hon. Lord Monteagle, and the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer, authorizing Mr. Uwins to go to a temporary expense of 4s. weekly for assistance. Surely the Keeper might have a discretionary power confided to him to engage housemaids and stokers.

Comparative Estimate of Mural Decoration as Practised in our own Country and on the Continent of Europe. By Thomas Purdie. Edinburgh.

This was originally a paper read before the Architectural Institute of Scotland, and published by them as part of their 'Transactions'; and on this occasion it is accompanied by illustrations of the Essay printed in a separate form. In short, precept is enforced by example, and the subject is thus more fully and fairly exposed to the reader. Of the treatise itself we have not much to say, though that little be in its praise. The present state of feeling that prevails in Art matters, the particular styles that are now studied and admired, Mr. Ruskin's 'Lamp of Sacrifice,' and the conditions under which imitation may be admitted into ornament, are all freely discussed, without much novelty of opinion, but with a great deal of sound common sense. The lithographs are more interesting. The first is a design for a hypathral corridor, composed of various fragments, which illustrate very well the various resources of wall decoration. The design was exhibited in the Crystal Palace before being fixed in its ultimate place of destination. Plate 2 is an example of the French Pompadour style of ornament, the most graceful of all in that country, and least known here. This is a very pleasing and instructive drawing. Plates 3 and 4 are original designs for interiors, which we are bound to say, do not shine by contrast with the preceding and subsequent French examples. We may admire the author's taste in selection, whilst we cannot applaud his skill in design. Plate 5 represents the prize decoration in the Great Exhibition, prepared by MM. Mader, Frères, of Paris. Plates 6 and 7 are from almost equally sumptuous and elegant productions by Delicour, and a final elevation is given, Plate 8, of a set of apartments in Paris. It is not too much to say that these exquisite compositions are without a rival in this country, where it is daily too apparent that no amount of knowledge, no facilities of execution, no power of appreciating elegance in design, all of which we possess amply, can make amends for the absence of inventive skill, which has hitherto met with little or no encouragement amongst us. The Schools of Design must be looked to as the nurseries for artists possessed of this incomunicable gift of genius, and the institution of these seminaries is an event we may daily congratulate ourselves upon. As has been lately observed by a high authority, "the seed has been thrown broadcast; and the wider the area that is occupied, the greater the prospect of rearing individuals of eminent ability

out of the general mass of students. The improved taste of the people will furnish employment, it is to be hoped, for the less gifted, but more numerous class, whose efforts must necessarily be confined to imitation and adaptation of former materials.

A Manual of Colour, with a Catechism. For the use of Students. By R. Redgrave, Esq., R.A., Art-Superintendent. Chapman and Hall.

In this small treatise of thirty-six pages the rules of colour are reduced to a system almost mathematical in its precision, and the questions and answers that accompany the text are well adapted to bring out the student's knowledge. It appears to be admirable as far as it goes, being in truth nothing more than a school manual, short, practical, and comprehensive; whilst for the correctness of its views the name of the author alone is sufficient guarantee.

On Wednesday night, the Society of the Réunion des Arts held their second meeting in their new house, No. 76, Harley-street, formerly the residence of M. Jullien. Their former place of meeting, the Beethoven Rooms, in Queen Anne-street, has been exchanged for apartments better suited to their objects and requirements. The purpose of this Society, which hopes to furnish an institution where professors of all the branches of the fine arts, amateurs and patrons, may meet together, and exchange thoughts and views, is a novel and interesting one, and deserves every encouragement and good wish. The number of individuals of rank who sanction the Society as patrons speaks well for its future success; and the artists have freely subscribed, so that considerable results may be expected. The first meeting was a musical *soirée*, upon which occasion Mesdames Maria Doria, Fitzwilliam, and Lablache, and Messieurs F. Lablache, Silas, Blumenthal, Jansa, Goffrie, Hennen, and Reed, were among the performers. On Wednesday, which was a lecture night, Mr. Augustus F. Westmacott delivered a lecture on 'The Passions, as employed in Poetry.' He considered Collins's famous Ode as the ground-work of all rules on the subject, and our best guide towards rendering poetry expressive of the various mental emotions. Fear, Anger, Despair, and Hope, were successively illustrated by quotations: the antagonism of Revenge and Pity shown in the instance of Shylock; Pity was displayed in a poem of Thomas Hood; the jealousy of Othello, the melancholy and cheerfulness of Shakespeare and Milton, were described; and finally Joy obtained an appropriate illustration from Moore's 'Lalla Rookh.' The lecture was much admired, and a succession of meetings is announced, some of them musical, others literary. The rooms were handsomely lighted, and the drawing-room hung with a good assemblage of modern pictures, some original, and others copies from celebrated works. A collection of busts and statuettes, by Foley and others, add to the interest of the apartments—these it is intended to change from time to time. The other parts of the house are devoted to the ordinary purposes of a club.

A French artist, Grandville, recently deceased, is favourably known for his admirable illustrations of 'Robinson Crusoe,' 'Jerome Paturot,' the 'Petites Misères de la Vie Humaine,' the 'Plantes Animées,' and other books; also for his caricatures. His original designs for these works were sold by auction in Paris a few days ago, and realised 480L. The sum is excessively high, and proves the esteem in which Grandville was held. His designs are on small scraps of paper, and the greater part of them are simply done with pen and ink:—some of them seem the merest scratches, and are curious when contrasted with the beautifully engraved illustrations.

The late King Louis Philippe, just before the Revolution of February, commissioned M. Gudin, the marine painter, to supply twenty-five pieces, representing battles at sea and marine views, for the galleries at Versailles. The republican government declined to continue the order, and such of the paintings as were executed were sold by auction

—the sums realised being infinitely below what the king had agreed to pay for them. The present government has just revived the commission to M. Gudin for the whole series of twenty-five paintings.

MUSIC.

THERE has been considerable activity this week in the musical world in London. On Monday evening the AMATEUR MUSICAL SOCIETY commenced its season with a concert in the Hanover-square Rooms. Mr. G. A. Osborne, as conductor, has brought the members into better order for their public appearances than was thought necessary in former years. The manner in which most of the pieces were performed, by so numerous a band of amateur musicians, gave proof of careful practice as well as of art and skill. Of the whole strength of the orchestra, about seventy in number, at least two-thirds are amateurs, and we understand that only eight of the stringed instruments, on which so much of the general effects depend, were on Monday evening touched by professional hands. The concert was, under such circumstances, most creditable to the Society and its conductor. Among the pieces were Mendelssohn's *Symphony in A Minor*, Auber's light and brilliant *Luc des Fées*, Rossini's overture to *Il Turco in Italia*, Wallace's overture to *Maritana*. A new Funeral March to the memory of Wellington, by Mr. Vincent St. Jervis, although not marked by much originality or any striking ideas, gives satisfaction by its plain dignity and absence of caprice and affectation, as beffited the theme. A new song, 'Beloved One,' by Miss Gabriel, was heard with every advantage, being sung by Miss Dolby, accompanied by the composer. Miss Gabriel's execution of a rondo-brilliant on the pianoforte was such as is seldom heard from non-professional performers.

On Tuesday evening the HARMONIC UNION gave a performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, which has seldom been heard at Exeter Hall with better effect. With Mr. Sims Reeves, Mrs. Endersohn, and Miss Dolby, in the chief solo parts and airs, the success of the performance was safe. Miss F. Rowland continues to give promise of being a fine soprano singer. Miss Bassano's recitations in *Jezebel* were well delivered, and the choruses were in admirable training. The frequent applause and several encores gave evidence of the satisfaction of the crowded audience; though it is to be regretted that the custom of abstaining from noisy manifestations in the performance of sacred music is now too much disregarded. Mr. Benedict and the managers of the Harmonic Union act wisely for the financial welfare of the Association, in bringing forward standard works of the great masters. The introduction of new compositions to the public will apparently be only a secondary object of the Association. We doubt, however, whether three Exeter Hall associations, chiefly for sacred music, will receive permanent support. It will be certainly a marked fact as to the direction of the public taste, if London supports three Oratorio associations, and only one *Opéra* company. There have been several concerts of chamber classical music during the week. Mr. Lucas, at his residence in Berners-street, on Wednesday evening, was assisted by Messrs. Sinton, Cooper, and Hill, and Mrs. Thompson (Miss Kate Loder). At Willis's Rooms, on the same evening, Herr Pauer gave the second of his *soirées* for the season, assisted by Mr. Lindsay Sloper and Herr Molique, Madame Doria, Miss Kathleen Fitzwilliam, and Mr. Wrighton. Some of his new compositions, performed with his usual ability and taste by M. Pauer, formed a leading feature of the evening's entertainment.

The announcements of concerts and other musical réunions in the short interval between this and Easter are numerous. On the 15th, at Willis's Rooms, Mr. Charles Cotta promises a display of more than ordinary talent, Madame Neddin, Miss Dolby, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Brandt, being engaged as vocalists, with Madame Bompiani, pianoforte; Mr. Aylward, violoncello; and Herr Nabich, trombone. On the 17th, Mr.

Salaman gives his second concert at 27, Queen Anne-street, Messrs. Sainton, Blagrove, Rousset, and Salaman, forming a quartett of performers which will secure the good execution of the pieces selected. On the same evening is the last of the Musical Winter Réunions, Mdlle. Clauss, pianiste, and Molique, Mellon, Goffrie, Webb, and Piatti, with Madame Doria as vocalist. Spohr's quintett in G, op. 33, is to be repeated by desire, also Beethoven's sonata in C, op. 53, and Mendelssohn's quintett in A minor, No. 1, op. 13.

At Exeter Hall the SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY announce for the 18th, Mendelssohn's 'Lobgesang, or Hymn of Praise,' and Mozart's 'Requiem,' the chief vocalists being Miss Birch and Miss Williams, Mr. Lockey and Mr. Lawler. On the 23rd there will be a performance of the *Messiah*, as is usual during Passion Week.

The NEW PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY are to give their first grand concert on Wednesday evening, at Exeter Hall. The programme contains some favourite compositions, including Beethoven's *Egmont* overture, the Dervishes chorus in *The Ruins of Athens*, Mendelssohn's symphony in A minor, Weber's cantata, *Kampf und Leid*, solos by Mrs. Endersohn, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Weiss, chorus in Gluck's *Iphigenia in Tauris*, march in *Athalie*, by Mendelssohn, and the air and chorus, 'Possesti humi,' from Mozart's *Zauberflöte*. Herr Lindpaintner is the conductor, two of whose compositions will be introduced, the *Vampire* overture, and a concerto, clarinet, M. Wuille. We hope that the New Philharmonic may have a more successful season than last, though it is well that the loss falls not on professional musicians, but on the enterprising commercial men who, by means of this Society, give encouragement to art. When the new hall is ready for use, the speculation will probably be financially as well as artistically successful.

The annual festival in aid of the funds of the Royal Society of Musicians was held this week at the Freemasons' Hall, Mr. Bond Cabbell, M.P., in the chair. The evening was enlivened by the songs and performances of professional musicians who had volunteered their services for the occasion. Glees and songs were given by Mesdames Ferrari and Weiss, Misses Birch, Fitzwilliam, and Williams, Messrs. Benson, Ferrari, and Gear. Instrumental pieces were given by Signors Bottesini and Piatti, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Anderson Kirkham. The piano accompanists were Mr. Sterndale Bennett and Mr. Cipriani Potter. The proceedings and results of the evening festival were in every respect satisfactory for the benefit of this now ancient charitable institution.

The Royal Italian Opera will be opened on Tuesday the 29th. With most of the high names of last year's campaign, and some new engagements to be soon announced, there is every prospect of a brilliant and successful season. Although the closing of Her Majesty's Theatre leaves the field more free, we trust the directors of the new house will not relax in their efforts to sustain the reputation which it has acquired during the past unhappy competition. The sale of the properties of the old house is appointed to commence on Thursday. Besides the scenery, stage machinery, furniture, fittings, and other theatrical properties, the organ, by Flight, and a large library of music, form part of the auctioneer's catalogue, the compilation of which is no light undertaking. The effects are so numerous that the sale, it is expected, will occupy the best part of a month. The scenery, stage-machinery, theatre dresses, and other properties of the Amateur Company of the Guild of Literature and Art, have been purchased by a gentleman of Birmingham, for 2000.

In America, the chief names before the musical world are still Madame Sontag and Alboni, for whom enthusiasm remains unabated. The young Creole pianist, Gottschalk, is also attracting much admiration, and is described as a modern performer of the highest style of art.

This day (the 12th) is the anniversary of the death of Dr. John Bull, the celebrated organist of

the time of Elizabeth and James I. He is supposed by some to have been the composer of 'God save the King.'

The Grand Opéra of Paris has done little or nothing as yet, but it has in active rehearsal Niedermeyer's new five-act opera. The Opéra Comique and the Théâtre Lyrique have contented themselves with repeating pieces already familiar to the public. A *début*, which is of considerable importance on account of the name of the *débutante*, has taken place at the theatre of the Court—that of Mdlle. Lablache, daughter of the great basso. She appeared as *Maria*, in *La Figlia del Reggimento*, and made a triumphant hit. Her voice is a mezzo-soprano of great power and sweetness, and she is a most accomplished musician. But, unfortunately, it appears that she has no present intention of taking to the stage as a profession. The rest of our Paris news may be summed up in three words—concerts—concerts—concerts! The principal of them have been by Louisa Matmann and Rosa Kastner. It may, however, be added that Messrs. Maurin, Sabather, Mers, and Chevillard have given the last *quatuor* of Beethoven with marked success.

If Verdi be not satisfied with his success he must be the most unreasonable of mortals. This very week we learn that his *Rigoletto* has been performed at St. Petersburg and at Malta; and his *Attila* at Monte Video; whilst others of his operas figure every week in the theatres of Rome, Naples, Venice, and other Italian cities, and are disputed by the two great musical houses at Paris. Meyerbeer, too, has no ground to complain of neglect; his *Prophet*, after going the round of all western and southern Europe, is in preparation at St. Petersburg; and his *Robert le Diable* has been produced with success at Geneva and Bucharest. Verily, eminent musical composers are the most favoured of men; they alone speak a universal language, and they alone find in every clime applause and gold.

From Barcelona, we learn that a new opera by M. Bonetti, called *Jane Shore*, has been produced in that city. It was heartily applauded. Madame Dejean, as *Jane*, afforded such satisfaction that the principal inhabitants have presented her with a diamond bracelet.

The Italian company at Vienna for the present season is unusually strong. It comprises Messrs. Fraschini and Guasco as tenors, and Mesdames Medora and Mainville-Fodor as sopranis. Cerito and Carlotta Grisi are to figure in the ballet.

The Hamburg papers tell a tale of a tenor of marvellous beauty and power having been found by a musician singing to a hurdy-gurdy in the streets,—of his having been engaged on the spot at a large salary,—and of his having been immediately placed under accomplished masters.

Luchesi, the well known Italian tenor has, says a letter from Paris, been engaged for Covent Garden.

THE DRAMA.

Two new pieces were produced at DRURY LANE on Monday for the lessee's benefit. If the crowd that assembled on the occasion intended their presence as a testimonial of their approbation of the management of the theatre, their belief must have been considerably shaken, since the chief dramatic novelty of the evening, *The School for Kings*, was tolerably well hissed. This is one of that class of dramas whose plot can scarcely be even supposed, by the most innocent playwright, to interest anybody, and whose possible success is rendered still more unlikely by their being put on the stage with all possible carelessness. In this instance the scenery and costumes utterly failed to enable any one to fix either the locality or the period of the drama, which contained in places some tolerably effective writing, that was, however, wholly lost by the frequent recurrence of the baldest conventionalities of melodramatic language. The other new piece, a mixture of melodrama and ballet, called *The Turkish Lovers*, proved more to the taste of the audience, and met with some success, although it is not, we should think, of a character to prove permanently attrac-

tive. Between the pieces the *feat*, which seemed, by the impatience of the audience in waiting for it, and the importance evidently attached to it, to assume the place of a pantomime on "boxing" night, was performed. Mr. Sands *did* walk, head downwards, on a surface resembling marble, to which his feet clung, something after the manner of the circular piece of leather with which, when moistened, little boys lift up, by suction, large stones. The *feat*, although successful, is more curious than pleasing. The sense of danger is removed by a net being spread below the performer; and the performance is too simply mechanical and laborious to be placed in the list of agreeable athleticisms. Indeed, it was far less effective than the *feat* of *La Perche*, by the brothers Siegrist, which followed, and in which the sense of danger and effort is balanced by the extreme neatness and, in its way, grace with which the thing is done.

At the ST. JAMES'S we can hardly keep pace with the novelties. Three new two-act dramas have been produced since our last notice, and that justly popular actor, M. Lafont, has been added to the company, which is now of unusual strength. Neither of these novelties has been transplanted to our own stage. *Laure et Delphine* is from the Gymnase, and is a piece not of incident but character, and the chief character, a coquette, played by Mdlle. Luther. In the first act we have two sisters, the one of a grave, and the other of a lively temperament; and in the second act we have the latter well married, and treating with patronizing airs her unmarried sister, who languishes in unrequited affection for the lover of her sister, who returns after long absence, to be first dismayed at the marriage, and then easily reconciled to the transfer of his affections to the elder sister, to whom he discovers he owes all sorts of tender attentions showered on him when at a distance. The part afforded ample opportunities for the display of all those attractions, that *espègère*, and that *gracieuse* manner, with which, as well as with her skill as an actress, Mdlle. Luther fascinates her audience. Mdlle. Lambert seemed somewhat out of place in the sentimental sister, but acted with propriety and effect. *Le Parapluie de Damocles* is a Palais Royal absurdity, suggesting by its title its foundation upon the adventures of a lost umbrella, which calls into action all the conflicting passions that usually agitate the bosoms of the *dramatis personae* of those farces which are constructed upon the principles of exhibiting absurdities of character and involutions of incident, which, if not truthful, are irresistibly absurd, and are made the best possible use of by such an artist as M. Ravel, in whose wildest whimsicalities there is that mixture of natural expression that places him, as we are constantly reminded, very far above common farce actors, and fully justifies his great popularity. On Monday, in *Une Petite Fille de la Grande Armée*, another importation from the Gymnase, M. Lafont made his first appearance this season in the part of the *General*, and was received, as his position as an old favourite, almost from his frequent visits naturalized amongst us, deserved. This piece is chiefly interesting from its exhibition of two characters—that of the *General*, an old soldier of the Empire, most loyally Buonapartist, *brusque* and impulsive in his manner, and snickering of the ranks from which he has evidently risen; and that of *Hortense*, his daughter, brought up and educated by him, charming in person, of good heart, but savouring more of the camp than the boarding-school, and possessing more of the soldier's truth than the young lady's tenderness. Careless acting would have made this character repulsive; in Mdlle. Luther's hands it is fascinating. The semi-military pose, with the hands behind the back, the sharp authoritative tone of the soldier's spoiled child, are just sufficiently indicated to give piquancy to the representation, while the *naïveté* and good feeling of the character are constantly kept in view, and the girlishness never lost sight of. From the interest attached to these two characters, and the cleverness with which they are developed by the story, this drama will, we

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think, although rather too long, prove one of the most attractive of the *répertoire*. The period of the action is that of the return from Elba, and a royalist *Sous-Prefet* and his family are displayed in contrast to the Buonapartist General and his daughter, with whom the son of the *Sous-Prefet* is in love.

Quite a hubbub has been created in the dramatic circles of Paris by the commission appointed to distribute the prizes for the best moral pieces produced in the course of the year, having reported to the government that only two pieces out of between sixty and seventy are worthy of the honour of being rewarded; and that consequently only 200L out of the 600L allowed will be required. The rejected authors are naturally sore at their rejection; and the whole dramatic fraternity have loudly taken their part, on the ground that it was a sin and a shame to dispose of only 200L when 600L were allowed. All parties start upon the principle that it is due to themselves and their calling to secure all the money they possibly can, whether it be wanted or not; and though they may afterwards quarrel amongst themselves as to the disposal of it, they consider that an *affaire de famille* with which nobody has any concern. There may be a dash of banditism in their doctrine; but really we have scarcely the courage to blame them when we call to mind how small and how uncertain are the average earnings of those who write for the stage, and how few and rare are the crumbs that fall to them from the well-spread table of the national budget. In the present case, the wrath of the dramatists has been increased by the fact, that it is some of their own *confrères* of the pen, Scribe, Saint-Beuve, Ph. Chasles, and others, who have prevented them from receiving the whole 600L.

The novelties of the week are neither numerous nor brilliant. We need only mention two: the Palais Royal has given one of those extravagant farces for which it is noted. It is called *Les Folies Dramatiques*, and is in five acts; and it consists of a series of parodies of tragedy, melodrama, Italian opera, and ballet, by those famous *farceurs*, Sainville, Grasset, Levassor, and Hyacinthe. Parodies of this kind are as old as the hills; and in the present piece, the authors, Dumanor and Clairville, have not given themselves the trouble to be either original or funny in details, but the grotesque acting of the imitable *quatuor* creates prodigious laughter. By the way, this farce had the honour of being performed in presence of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor and the Imperial Court, at the Tuilleries, before being given to the profane vulgar.—His Majesty having deigned to follow the example which Queen Victoria set in the case of Jerrord's new play. The Gaité has produced a new sentimental melodrama, in five long acts and innumerable tableaux, called *La Boisière*. There is nothing, either in personages, incidents, dialogue, or plot, to distinguish it materially from the thousands of melodramas that have gone before; but the heroine is made to display her immaculate virtue and extraordinary sensibility amongst the snow of the Pyrenees—snow and mountains being very much *à la mode* this year on the Parisian stage.

Several new works, from which great things are expected, are promised at the principal houses. Poncet's *Honneur et Argent*, a comedy, will probably be the first; it labours under the disadvantage of having been rejected by the Français, or, rather, so coldly received, that the author in a rage withdrew it; but the authorities of the Français are not infallible, and the audiences of the Odéon are indulgent. The imitable Bouffé, we are glad to learn, has sufficiently recovered from his long illness to be able to accept an engagement at the Théâtre des Variétés; he is to appear shortly in *Michel Perrin*, one of his best characters. Frederick Lemaître has, it is said, been engaged at the Porte St. Martin. The total receipts of the Paris theatres and other public amusements in the course of the last year were 451,000L; in the year preceding they were about a third less. The

municipalities of Nantes, and one or two other large towns, have voted subventions to their theatres; and the government on its part intends also to grant subventions to provincial houses. Thus it is hoped that country theatres will be able to recover some portion of the prosperity they once enjoyed.

VARIETIES.

New York Crystal Palace.—This building, constructed of iron and glass, is erected on Reservoir Square, in the city of New York, by the Association for the Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations, incorporated under an act of the Legislature of the State of New York, the 11th day of March, 1852. The use of Reservoir Square is granted by the municipal authorities of the city. The ground plan of the building forms an octagon, and is surmounted by a Greek cross, with a dome over the intersection. The extreme length and breadth of the building are each 365 feet. Height of dome to top of lantern, 148 feet. Entire space on ground floor, 111,000 square feet. Whole area, 173,000 square feet, or 4 acres.

Electric Light.—A new application of electricity, invented by Dr. Watson, is now exhibiting in the immediate vicinity of Wandsworth. The great feature of the invention is, that the materials consumed in the production of electricity are employed for a profitable purpose independent of that of illumination. Thus, while a most brilliant light is produced by galvanic action, materials are introduced into the battery by which pigments of the finest quality are obtained, and these are so valuable that they equal, if they do not exceed, the cost of the operation. The pigments are of course first obtained in a liquid state, but they pass through a filtering and drying process, which not only renders them available for ordinary purposes, but creates variety of tint when the colour is the same. If the result of the inventor's discovery answers his expectations, this double employment of electricity will be a valuable addition to practical science, since we may literally have light for nothing, the illuminator being paid with his own pigments.—*Times.*

Cambridge Antiquarian Society.—At the meeting on 28th ult. the Rev. E. Ventris read an extract from Baker's Manuscript, and Mr. Rigg read a paper 'On the Orientation of King's College Chapel,' tending to show that it could not be made to conform to the theory on that subject announced by the late Cambridge Camden Society. The exact direction of this building was recently determined by Mr. Adams, in the course of a triangulation conducted by him for connecting the Cambridge Observatory with that at St. John's College. Mr. C. C. Babington read part of his forthcoming treatise upon Ancient Cambridgeshire.—*Builder.*

Exhibition of Cabinet Work.—The following notice has just been issued by the Department of Practical Art:—

"The Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade having had under their consideration the desirableness of making a 'Collection of Fine Specimens of Cabinet Work' for the information of students of Schools of Art, and the public at large, have directed the Department of Practical Art to collect and publicly exhibit such specimens.

"As the space at Marlborough House is now fully occupied by the Museum and Special Classes, permission has been obtained from the Royal Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851, to use such accommodations as may be afforded by Gore House, Kensington, where the proposed Exhibition will accordingly take place in the month of May next.

"The space being limited, it is intended to exhibit only Specimens of Furniture which have been executed before the present century.

"Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to allow examples, &c., from Windsor Castle to be placed in the proposed Exhibition, and the loan of fine specimens has been liberally offered by several persons.

"Possessors of cabinet work willing to promote public instruction in this branch of manufacture by lending specimens, are requested to intimate their intentions to the Secretary of the Department of Art, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London, on or before the 5th of April.

"The arrangements for the safe removal and return of any specimens which may be lent to the Department have been entrusted to Mr. John Webb, of Old Bond Street. *"HENRY COLE."*

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